upon the Government, particularly the Leader of the House, to make a statement on this issue to clarify the position of the Government because, if the Government is not serious at all to unravell the truth behind the disappearance of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, naturally, it will create further confusion. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. External Affairs Minister to make a statement in the House so that the people can at least understand as to what was the intention of the hon. External A'ffairs Minister behind his visit to the Renkoji Temple.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the Short Duration Discussions. *....(Interruption).,..* Do you want to say something?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH) : My visit to the Renkoji Temple, when I was in Tokyo, in no way compromises the working of the Commission, which the Government has appointed. The Commission does its work autonomously and independently. My visit to Japan was organized in consequence of an invitation from the Government of Japan, and the visit to the Renkoji Temple does not compromise the working of the Commission. *...(Interruption)...*

SHRI JOYANTA ROY: It has been reported that he uttesed something at the Renkoji Temple and that he will be bringing back the ashes to India... *(Interruption)....* At this point of time, all this is very confusing.

The Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Unprecedented supercylone in Orissa

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up the Short Duration Discussion on the unprecedented supercyclone in Orissa. Mr. Das.

DR. M.N. DAS (Orissa) : Madam, with your kind permission, I rise to raise the issue of the terrible havoc caused recently to Orissa by the unprecedented super-cyclone. I used the word "unprecedented", in view of the observations made by experts of the Meteorological Department, and in view of the •bservations made by all the external agencies that *....(Interruption)...*

श्री सनातन बिसि (**उडीसा**): मैडम,.....

उपसभापति : आपको रेज़ करना है?

श्री सनातन बिसिः मैडम, मिनिस्टर नहीं हैं, एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर नहीं हैं।

DR. M.N. DAS: Then, how can we have the discussion, Madam?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the House is there. *....(Interruption)...* Let me hear as to what he has to say.

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Madam, the honourable Member's concern that the Minister concerned ought to be here is entirely valid. He is in transit from the Lok Sabha to the Rajya Sabha. This is the only time difference that is taking place and it was not known when exactly the discussion here would start. No disrespect is intended.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : In any case, the Leader of the House is here and he would convey the concern of the honourable Member to the concerned Minister. It is a joint responsibility of the Government.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal) : Madam, may I point out that never before any Short Duration Discussion or Calling Attention which speaks *....(Interruption)....*

उपसभापति : आ गए, आ गए .....(व्यवधान)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Better late than never.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It takes some time to come from the Lok Sabha. Then, as the Leader of the House has said, we did not give the exact time for the discussion.

SHRI H. HAUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): He has missed the train; so, he is late रेलवे चला गया है ना इसके हाथ से ।

सभापति : इन्होंने ऐग्रीकल्चर पकड़ लिया है अब ।

श्री एस. हनुमनतप्पाः रेलवे छोड़ दिया है, ऐग्रीकल्चर पकड़ लिया है।

श्री सनातन बिसिः कल यह तय हुआ था कि Shri George Fernandes will be here because he is a Member of the Task Force.

उपसभापतिः एक तो आ गए हैं, टास्क-फोर्स वाले भी आ जाएंगे। पहले शुरुआत तो हो डिस्कशन की ।

Thank for reminding us.

DR. M.N. DAS : Madam, it is the considered opinion of experts and observers that nowhere in the world, in living human memory, has such a super-cyclone occurred. Madam, before I come to the nature of the super-cyclone, I deem it my moral duty to express my profound gratitude to some of the persons who came to our rescue and help in the succour operations in Orissa at the right time. I pay my respectful homage to the redoubtable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, honourable Shri Chandrababu Naidu, for sending his volunteers, philanthropic groups at the very moment of the fury of the attack of the super-cyclone on 29th and 30th October; and his volunteers came in group after group, penetrated into the remote areas of Orissa, cleared the national highway which was totally cut off from the outside world. I have seen them working with a sense of dedication and devotion, rescuing the dying, cremating the scores of dead bodies and clearing and burning the thousands and thousands of carcasses of dead animals. They continue to work even today, weeks after the super-cyclone. Similarly, I must bow my head to the Chief Ministers of Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Delhi, Bihar, West Bengal, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Arunachal, and all others, who, by their gracious gesture, came to the rescue of the people of Orissa. Similarly, I must express my gratitude, on behalf of the people of Orissa, to all the external agencies, foreign agencies, jawans of the Army, international groups of volunteers, inter-State N.S.S. cadets, and also to the various political parties who donated to the relief fund for the distressed people of Orissa. Now, all these things carry a moral lesson - a lesson that the Orissa tragedy has proved amply to the
whole world that the Indian nation is one family, emotionally integrated so much so that no part of Orissa, no part of India, would be isolated to suffer its own agony .....*(Interruption)....*

उपसभापति : राज्य सभा में7बर्स ने भी दिया है, आप लोगों ने भी दिया है। हमारे राज्य सभा के स्टाफ ने भी दिया है।

DR. M.N. DAS : I am grateful to all the persons who came to the rescue and succour of the devastated State. Now, Madam, I come to the nature of the cyclone. It has already been said that a cyclone has a natural duration of time. It can blow for 8 to 24 hours to destroy the area it wants to destroy. But this

super cyclone continued for 36 hours. It stagnated and remained static over the area of Paradip, Jagatsingpur, Kendra Para and some other places. It is a challenge to the entire scientific community, a challenge to environmentalists, meteorologists etc. How could this abnormal behaviour take place at all? Why should this cyclone get stagnated for 36 hours, moving and moving like the eyeball of the tragedy and causing immense destruction, unlimited destruction? There should be a time limit for endurance of the pain by the people. But for 36 hours they were confined to darkness, suffering the stormy wind, heavy rains and finding themselves so helpless and hapless. It calls for a thorough investigation. Let the NASA and the ISRO be involved by the Government of India in ascertaining the cause of this kind of disastrous super cyclone. After all, we have to think of future attacks like this. Unless there are remedial measures right in advance, the entire eastern coast of India cannot escape this kind of super cyclones in future. The causes must be ascertained, and remedies must be thought of. Now, Madam, I can speak one thing with certainty before the House that the death toll of the super cyclone in Orissa can never be spelt out with certainty. How can we count the dead bodies? Which agency will count them? How do you identify dead persons? I give one or two instances. Paradip is a great port. Every day, thousands of contract labourers come to this place from different parts of Orissa and also from outside Orissa. The contract labourers are engaged from the morning, and they finish their work in the evening. Where do they stay? In makeshift huts on the sea-beach. If a ten-metre high tidal wave hits the sea-beach of Paradip throughout the night and sweeps away thousands of people, can any Government agency calculate or estimate the exact number of the dead persons? Dead bodies are floating on the sea-beach of Puri carried by waves from a great distance in bloated form, deformed, decomposed and unrecognisable. Scores of floating dead bodies appear every day on the Puri shore.

The other day, only five days before, one of my relatives narrated a horrible story. He had gone to attend a marriage. The host had purchased big fishes weighing four or five kilograms. When a fish was cut into pieces, a human finger, totally rotten but containing a ring studded with a precious stone came out of the stomach of the fish. From another fish, a rotten ear of a girl or a lady with an ear-ring came out. In other words, dead bodies had been swept away into the sea or the river, and the fishes had feasted upon the human carcass. So far, we, the humanbeings enjoyed fishes, butfishes also got

a chance to taste the human flesh, because of the Orissa tragedy. We can never know the number of the dead.

Madam, I am reminded of a German incident just after World War II. A German General was seen by his soldiers falling on the battlefront. The;, took him as dead and his name was registered in the list of the dead. But, several months after the war, after hiding in some foreign country, the General finally reached his home in a small town in Germany and knocked at the door of his house at midnight. He asked his wife whether she could give him some food. He was starving for three or four days. His wife said: "Yes, you can take my food. The ration supply was scanty and there was a meagre amount of foodstuff. Please run to the Municipality tomorrow morning to get. a ration card for yourself." The next morning, when the General appeared before the Municipal Chairman, the Chairman recognised him and congratulated him that he was alive. When the General asked for a ration card, the Chairman called the Head Clerk. What did the Head Clerk say? He said: "Sir, how can I give a ration card to a man whose name is in the list of the dead?" The General asked: " Don't you find me physically alive"? The Head Clerk retorted: " Yes, you are physically alive, but statistically dead". This formula of one being physically alive,but statistically dead is working in the reverse form in Orissa today. Thousands of people are statistically alive, because their names are in the voters' list, but they are physically dead. So, I would like to say that the death toll would range anywhere between 15,000 and 50,000 and no survey, no investigation, no inquiry, no identification will bring the number of the dead in Orissa to its real mark.

Madam, you know what happened to the State. In this context, I would appeal to the hon. Minister and to the hon. Prime Minister. This is not the time to think in terms of politics or political considerations. The whole of Orissa and the whole of India cries for declaring the Super-cyclone in Orissa as a national calamity. But there is some kind of jugglery with words; some kind of ambiguity in interpreting words, some kind of statements which sound peculiar. It is difficult to find any logic behind it. The hon. Prime Minister announced that the super-cyclone in Orissa is being treated as a national calamity. But if it is being treated as a national calamity, why not declare it as a national calamity. It does not involve anything more. It does not dislocate the political scenario. It does not mean that by declaring it as a national calamity, you are going to postpone the election. Not at all. So, if you are going to spend money by treating it as a national calamity, why not declare it

as a national calamity? I am sure, hon. Vajpayee Ji is not imitating his great counterpart of the last century, the British Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli. Disraeli bad developed a habit of belittling the seriousness of certain terms. For example, how did he treat words like tragedy and calamity. He said "if Gladstone falls into the River Thames, it is a personal tragedy. But, ijf he is rescued from the water, it is a national calamity". Well, tragedy and calamity are words carrying some significance, some serious meaning, but a Prime Minister should not have played with such words lightly.

I am thankful to hon. George Fernandes Ji. He is the head of the task force looking into the Orissa tragedy, ith this....*(Interruption)....* On behalf of the people of Orissa, I must congratulate him for the yeoman service he is doing, personally visiting, surveying the damage and losses, and trying to take adequate and necessary steps to ameliorate the conditions of the people. I am grateful to him. I express my gratitude to him. But, Madam, my question is, if the Government of India is treating it as a national calamity, why couldn't they declare it as a national calamity? That will create a psychological impact in the minds of the people. It will also create an impression outside India. It will move the entire international community. The international community will also describe it as something unprecedented , unusual, abnormal. In this century, nowhere else in the world , in human living memory, we have seen this type of a catastrophe. Now, to play with words and to have a type of subtle acrobatics is not good. The Government is treating it as a national calamity, but not declaring it as a national calamity. This type of ambiguity must go. It is a human tragedy. Take it as a human tragedy. There is no other consideration, but human consideration. Madam, the Minister in charge of the Task Force is sitting here. The job of the Task Force is to supervise the relief work. But a more ominous threat is already looming large on the horizon. It is the spectre of famine.

Madam, as a student of modern Indian History, I had an occasion to study the causes and consequences of some of the famines of the 19th and 20th centuries. The last great famine was during the British regime, the Bengal Famine of 1943 and 1944. What was the cause of that famine? Successive crop failures in Bengal. Suddenly a colossal famine broke out wherein millions of lives were lost. There was surplus foodstuff in the undivided Punjab of those days. But the Government had no goods train to transport foodstuffs from the surplus area to the famine area. Therefore, that great famine like the other famines during the British days, was described as a

man-made famine. The man-made famine could be possible in the British colonial, India. But the man-made famine is impossible in a democratic, independent, republican, India. This Government would not like to suffer the stigma of creating a "Government-made famine." But the Government should have the farsight and foresight to anticipate the coming famine. How do you anticipate a famine? There is already a crop failure, a total crop failure. Over 17 lakh hectares of land in Orissa has been affected. The next crop is impossible because 85 per cent of the farmers in Orissa are marginal and poor farmers. There are no tractors. In Jagatsingpur and Kendrapara districts, they have lost half of the bullocks. One bullock costs betweenRs.15,000 and Rs.20,000. Even then, they are not available. These farmers have no seeds, no fertilizers, no shelter. They have lost their property, their houses and everything. How can they go to the fields in the coming next two months? So, there will definitely be a crop failure in the ten districts of the coastal belt of Orissa in the coming rabi season. Already, one crop failure had taken place. Now, the second crop failure is staring at us. These ten districts do not have forest wealth, cultivable soil. Lands have become saline. Deposits of sand have been formed.. When the people themselves do not have shelter, do not have bullocks, do not have ploughs, do not have fertilizers, do not have seeds, how can we save that place from a crop failure? And, if a crop failure comes, how can Nitish Kumarji save our people from famine? Of course, surplus stock may be there outside. But, how to bring it, when to bring it and where to bring it? And how to supply it, whom to supply? It is a Herculean task; a tremendous, gigantic and Himalayan problem. In the context of all these coming omens and already what had happened, we pray for human sympathy, not political sympathy. Politics may divide people, but distress should unite the nation. Already the Orissa tragedy has proved that the distress of Orissa has united the whole nation into one family. The Government must work according to the situation which it has observed. So, Madam, I would pray to the Government, to the hon. Prime Minister not to belittle the word of calamity like Disraeli but to come to the succour, rescue and help of the distressed people who will take SO years to rise to what level they had come to after the Independence. Unless the whole nation stands behind Orissa and particularly the Government of the time, Madam, the future is bleak.I must conclude by saying, do not create apy Ethiopian-like situation in the first year of the New Millennium. That is a warning to the Government, a warning to the nation! Thank you, Madam.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Madam Deputy Chairman, I rise with a heavy heart to take part in this discussion. Now, the entire country is aware of what has happened in Orissa. During the last Session, we had discussed it. When we were discussing it, we got information that winds were blowing at a higher speed and there was the possibility of another havoc. We prayed to God at that time. But the calamity that has befallen the people of Orissa is so severe that thousands of people lost their lives. The estimate varies; some people say it is 10,000; some others, even our friends here in the House, say that the number is much more. We do not want to speculate without knowing the actual numbers. Even according to the State Government, the figure as of now is around 10,000. But it will take some more time because the administration is not able to reach each and every hamlet and human inhabitation and find out how many human lives have actually been lost.

Madam, on October 17th and 18th, for districts - Ganjam, Prui, Khunda and Gajapati, were affected in the initial cyclone fury when there was cyclone even in parts of Andhra Pradesh. But subsequently, the supercyclone of 29th October has affected Balasore, Bhadrak, Jeypore, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri,Cuttack, Narayangarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Dhenkenal~of course, Dhenkenal partially. These districts were affected very badly. Human lives were lost, a lot of cattle were also lost; property, private and public, was affected; the communication system also was totally affected; and the entire area near the coast was inundated with water. There was no scope for anybody either to reach there or even the cries of those people, the helpless people, could not reach anybody because it had become totally inaccessible in the initial days of the cyclone. The casualties as per the Government is of course 9866. But they say in Jagatsinghpur alone, the casualty is 8119. That is in one district. However, the sorry state of affairs there, even after so many days of the cyclone, is a running commentary on our system, on our functioning. We had cyclones even earlier also. There was a cyclone in Andhra Pradesh in 1977 where more than 10,000 people were killed. I come from a State where between 1977 to 1999, there were at least 13 natural calamities. Unfortunately, we have not so far developed a system, a foolproof system You cannot avoid cyclones; you cannot stop them. But how to minimise the effect of cyclones, how to minimise the effect of floods, should be the worry and concern of the entire nation, whether it is the Central Government or the State Government, and this should be the approach. But

unfortunately, time and again, whenever there is a natural calamity, we discuss it in our legislative fora whether in Parliament or in Assembly, appoint some expert committees and they make recommendations. But subsequently, no follow up action is taken in an effective manner. I don't say no action is taken. Actions are taken. But they are not taken in an effective manner so as to mitigate the sufferings of the people or to minimise the damage from the nature's fury. This is the situation now. So, this at least should become an eye opener to us, this biggest calamity in the recent days, and let us put all our minds together, both the Central Government, the State Governments, even different political parties in the country; we should all really come together to come to an understanding and also evolve a method. Going by the expert committee's report so far that has been received, there should be some sort of a system where preventive measures are taken and reconstruction activity is also initiated. Then this debate about treating it as a national calamity or a calamity of a rare severity is going on. Madam, time and again, we come here. Last time also I told this thing in this House. Whenever something happens in my part of the country, whether it is Karnataka or Andhra, we naturally say: treat this as a national calamity. If there is a project, we say: declare this Upper Krishna project as a national project and treat the Godavari thing as a national project. Unless all political parties, whether in NDC or in the Chief Ministers' conference, come to some sort of an understanding and the Centre takes initiative, involving all these people, and then finally come to some sort of an understanding with regard to rescuing the people, with regard to relief and rehabilitation of the people who are affected, irrespective of the fact whether it happened in a particular party-ruled State or not- that is not the major issue- nothing much would be achieved. After all, they ^are human beings. We are here as peoples' representatives to take care of their concern, their problems, their welfare. Unless we now at least come to some sort of a concrete programme of action for future, nothing would be achieved. One immediate thing is relief and rehabilitation for the affected people. Second is the measures to strengthen the system of first of all identifying, assessing the cyclone, its speed, its route and its veracity; and all these things should be taken into consideration in evolving a system to minimise it. As I said last time, in Andhra Pradesh, the State Government has evolved a system and to that extent, the credit has to be given to the State Government. They have developed a system where they are able to evacuate the people in advance. They are giving warnings. Sometimes,

people refuse to leave their places. I have seen with my own eyes some District Magistrates bringing police along with them and forcibly taking away these people because people who live near the shore, fishermen, the other poor people, they depend for their livelihood on this activity. You ask them once, twice, thrice. The warnings are given. They have been evacuated but nothing happened. No cyclone came. Then next time, they say: "No.no. You have told us last time that something was going to happen. But nothing had happened. We will refuse to move." But there were instances where the C.R.P.F. was called and these people were removed from that place. The reason is very simple. After all, if they are affected by this, if they lose their lives, who is to be held responsible for this. We cannot hold those innocent people responsible. It is the duty of the State. By State, I mean the Government, whether Central Government or State Government. We have reports that a Committee was set up in 1984 -- the National Cyclone Review Committee. They have made certain recommendations. One of the recommendations is installation of communication system that could withstand even the worst cyclones. The super cyclone that has hit in Orissa is not something uncommon. There were cyclones earlier. My grand father used to tell me; in those days, these calendars and all that might not have been available to them. In Telugu it is called Gali-vaana. Gali means wind, and vaana means rain. There used to be big cyclones, small cyclones and how they used to identify that particular area. During the second cyclone it happened like this, during the first big cyclone it happened like this. We have information before us that in 1985, there was a super cyclone; in 1927, there was a super cyclone in my own District, Nellore; in 1953, in West Bengal there was a super cyclone; in 1997, there was another cyclone, as I have mentioned just now, in Divi taluka in Andhra Pradesh; in 1989, again in Andhra Pradesh; in 1990, in Machilipatnam, and in 1999, further in this area there was a super cyclone. The speed varies from 230 kms. to 260 kms. Now I am told, the speed of the latest cyclone is 260 kms, and the casualties also, now they say, are 10,000. Earlier also, there were reports of 10,000 people losing their lives. But what is happening unfortunately is that despite the management of such crisis and the precautionary measures, no pucca system has been evolved so far both at the State level and the national level. The need is to improve the capability of predicting the status of cyclone with sufficient accuracy. All our scientists should really apprise their mind of this aspect, and that should also be accurately predicted, noticed or identified in

advance so that you can give an advance warning. The second is augmenting and supplementing the efforts of the machinery to face such an eventuality, and the third is proper planning of the land use. After devastation by the cyclone, most of it gets saline affected and then it becomes useless. You know the people in the country side just depend on land; land and land alone is the source of their livelihood. The next one is pooling the resources between the State Governments and the Central Government. You have a National Calamity Relief Fund for five years. As per the recommendation of the Tenth Finance Commission, and also the discussion they had in the NDC earlier, I am told that it is Rs.700 crores, but Rs. 1240 crores have already been spent on this. So how can we expect the National Calamity Relief Fund to give any further assistance unless you revise the entire formula? And then to pool the resources, there is no other way to help any State. The State alone cannot meet this challenge, everybody agrees to this. But simply asking the Central Government to give Rs.25,000 crores, Rs.30,000 crores, nobody can stop. But, at the same time, is it possible and feasible for the Central Government also to give such a big amount of Rs.25,000 crores to one particular State? We know that we are in competitive politics nowadays unfortunately, and then the popularism is there everywhere. Therefore, in every State, we as the representatives of the State feel, and we also try to say, that our own area is affected more, so give us more. So, some sort of a scientific and rational approach amongst the political parties, amongst the State Governments and the Central Government has to be evolved at this state to meet the challenges in future, instead of debating as to why a national calamity was not declared. As the Prime Minister has rightly said, first of all, the immediate concern is to provide assistance, and as for whatever is required, the Government of India said that the Government of India is treating it as a national calamity and all assistance will be given. That should be understood in a proper perspective, and then there is nothing wrong in going for a discussion. What should be declared as a national calamity, what a national calamity is and what the funding system for the national calamity is, these questions come subsequently. I suggest that both the State Government and the Central Government should avoid this debade as of now, should get themselves into the relief and rehabilitation activities and come to the rescue of the people, and then take up this discussion at an appropriate time.

Sir, I am happy to note that the Army has really done a laudable service to the people who are affected in that State. They could not bring back the

lives that were lost, but the way in which the Army has conducted itself in this entire calamity is appreciable. The Armed Forces deserve the praise. The Army, the Navy and the Air Force immediately swung into action. They launched "Operation Sahayata". They have shown that they can not only fight for the defence of the country from its enemy but they can fight for the welfare of the people also. This is the great thing about the Indian Army, and I really compliment their role. Eight columns of army were moved immediately and then seven columns were moved from West Bengal. A total of 35 army camps, numbering about 5000 people, swung into action with regard to removal of dead bodies, with regard to removal of obstruction on the roads, and with regard to evacuating the people. They did their best. That is one thing we should take note of. Rescuing the marooned civilians, providing provisional medical aid, distribution of food packets, restoration of water and power, all these things were done. But, unfortunately, I don't know how far it is correct; I hope the Government of India will correct me or some Members from Orissa, if they have any information, should clarif, this. I read in the newspapers that the State Government now says that there is no need for army assistance and that they can go back. I don't think that the situation has come to such a stage where you do not require army assistance. The situation is not that. I am from the neighbouring State. I also have some understanding about the problems of some of the coastal districts of Orissa. I have also done some study. Then, I get information from my party units there

With regard to the funds, Madam Deputy Chairman, the Prime Minister had promptly visited that State. The Home Minister and the Defence Minister also have gone there. Other Central Ministers have gone there. They had to face the fury of the people because they were the first to reach there. I noticed one statement. I think that statement was given by hon. Shri George Fernandes or Shri Naveen Patnaik. They said,' neither they can blame us, nor can we blame them.' That was the statement they have given. Mobs came and they behaved in a different way with these people because they were the first to reach that place. People were angry as there was no food, no water, and no rescue operation. Nobody was there from the Administration, and when the Ministers went there, naturally, there was some reaction. It is human nature. One should understand this. One should understand the sufferings of the people and it should be seen in a proper perspective rather than becoming angry.

We are also happy that the Government of India has set up a task force,

under the Chairmanship of the Defence Minister, to identify the problems and also to understand the severity of the problem. There should also be a greater coordination between the State and the Central Government. It is not a Body to monitor what the State Government is doing. I think it is a Body to strengthen the efforts of the State Government and to augment the efforts that are made by the State Government in order to rescue the people.

The task force held a number of meetings. And I am told that the Minister, who is in-charge of the task force, has gone to different districts. What I want to say now is that the public sector units should be fully engaged in this activity. All the public sector units in the country should be engaged in this activity. All the big business houses should also be pursuaded to get involved in this activity. 1 am happy that certain State Governments have come forward with some programmes to rescue the people there. But the only thing which I am not able to understand - the Minister should clarify this - is that certain State Governments want to adopt certain districts. Is it possible in our present system? The State Governments have their own budget. They can give some money to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund or to the Orissa Chief Minister's Relief Fund, or they can pass it on to voluntary organisations. But can any State, with its machinery, go to another State, which is affected, and take care of a particular district? Is it administratively possible? Will it not create friction? This has to be thought about. There is no politics involved in it. Some of the States are ruled by the Congress; some are ruled by the BJP, and some are ruled by the Communists; it is good. It is humane on their part to come forward and adopt these districts. But a sort of solution has to be found for this problem. It is likely to create certain problems at the lower level with particular reference to this relief and rehabilitation work. I am also happy that the HUDCO has come forward in a big way with Rs. 380 crores' assistance to take up reconstruction of the houses. They have taken up the reconstruction of houses for the Government employees. But more concern should be shown towards the common people who lost their houses. The Indira Awas Yojana and the Swarna Jayanti Awas Yojana - a new name has been given to this Scheme - should be combined together. For all the affected people in those coastal districts, particularly for the people who are living below the poverty line, housing should be the top most priority. For this, the efforts of both the Rural Development Ministry and the Housing Ministry, which is called the Urban Development Ministry, should be combined together. The Central Government should involve the Members of Parliament

1.00 P.M

from those regions. Today morning, there was a discussion in my Parliamentary Party meeting. The Members of Parliament from there weresaying that they are nowhere in the picture. No Member of Parliament, either from the BJP or the BJD, has any role with regard to this relief and rehabilitation activity. Members of Parliament should be given some role to identify the beneficiaries, to identify the places and also to suggest some ways and means of rehabilitating these people on a permanent basis.

Secondly, Madam, you are also aware that as and when there is a natural calamity, the usual practice is to call a meeting of all the political parties. A meeting was called, I am told, by the Chief Minister of Orissa. But, subsequently, no effort has been made to involve all the political parties and utilise the cadre of the political parties also in tackling the problem of such a high magnitude. 1 feel, anybody who is coming forward, whether it is the Anand Marg, whether it is the RSS, whether it is the Communist Party, whether it is the BJP or the Congress Party, no matter, who is coming forward, the service of all of them should be utilised in a proper manner so that whoever goes there also feels that his service is being utilised. I have a newspaper cutting with me. It shocks me to read these things. A driver from Karnataka went with a lorry-load of relief material and, suddenly, some Government vehicle came and the people in that vehicle stopped the lorry. They said that they were collecting all the materials and they took them away, to the fury of the local people. Finally, it was found that this was done by officials at the block level. People feel that they are suffering. Somebody comes from Karnataka; somebody comes from Maharashtra; and somebody comes from some other place. These drivers also have the humanitarian feeling. They go to these places. We hear reports of looting, arson, etc. These things happen in the initial days because nothing reaches them. They were disorganised people. They were disturbed both mentally and physically. That one can understand. Subsequently, there has to be some progression in the entire activity. But there was regression. I don't want to give specific details or get into any controversy. But I can say one thing with all the authority, that the non-Governmental organisations are not being properly utilised for this purpose. So, my suggestion is that the Centre should impress upon the State Government, without encroaching upon its authority, to constitute a State-level all-party committee, to consitute a district-level

all-party committees, to constitute mandal or block-level all-party committees, and to constitute, in the affected areas, particularly, in the coastal districts, a village-level all-party committee to oversee the relief activity and to give advice. Otherwise, there is scope for a lot of misuse, which is already happening. I don't want to initiate this debate by bringing such facts to the notice of this House. But at the same time, the situation there compels me to say that all is not well. The administration has got totally crippled. Loads of relief materials, which are reaching Bhubaneswar and Cuttack -let any of my friends from this House go and see; most of the people have already seen media reports- are lying there and nobody is there to take care of them, properly utilise them and distribute them to the people who are in need of them. This is a sorry state of affairs. But, unfortunately, I see in the newspapers that people talk of changing the Chief Minister, people talk of dissident activities, at this hour of crisis. This is not the time to think in those terms. Yes; when somebody goes there, he may make a general comment about the situation there and, for that matter, any political person. Even when the Congress Party President visited the State, she demanded that it should be declared as a national calamity. There is nothing wrong in it. Some people said that whatever relief that the Government of India had given was not adequate. Okay. That is a fair comment. One can understand that and the Government can give its own version. But, at the same time, you must really come to the crux of the problem. One is that the NGOs are not involved effectively. Secondly, the administrative machinery at the lowest level has totally collapsed. You have to suspend the Commissioner for Relief? The Commissioner for Relief is the authority, who is overlooking and overseeing all these things. He has been suspended. Now, we have reports that the MLAs are meeting and they are demanding change of the Chief Minister. People will laugh at us, I am telling you. Forget politics. I am not concerned with this Chief Minister or that Chief Minister, who is going to come. But the issue today is that the entire world is watching us, the country is watching us. How are we going to face this devastation, this calamity? How are we going to rebuild the life of the people of Orissa? That being the case, the ruling party in Orissa should rise above these things and see to it that the things are set right in an effective manner, to utilise everybody's service. This is the suggestion which I want to make. Everything belonging to the fishermen hat been totally washed away. Their boats, nets, etc., are totally gone. The implements of the rural artisans are totally gone. School buiklings have been

washed out. In the rural areas, even the roads - the road system is so bad in our country- even those internal roads, were also cut off. It is a Herculean task to rebuild the whole thing. We all must participate in this activity. There was a suggestion that MPs should give some amount out of their constituency fund for this purpose. This is a welcome suggestion, but how is it to be done? What are the ways and means of doing it?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I would like to suggest that both the Members of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha have two crores of rupees under the MPs Local Area Development Fund. So far as the Rajya Sabha is concerned, being the Chairman of the Committee, I will discuss the matter with the concerned Minister and find a solution. Because, anyway those districts have to be identified. I would request the Government to release that fund to the Members of Parliament . They cannot depend on sending the funds because a lot of delay is involved. Since this calamity has happened in Orissa, it will be better for the Government and the Programme Implementation Ministry to release that fund. Even if we had to make some relaxation in regard to the project, money will be given so that it could be utilised.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Madam, I am happy that you are taking an initiative to this effect. I hope the Members will also join in the effort. But the only dilemma is this. Should it be confined only to those Members of Parliament, or, the entire House? We have, in total, 800 Members in both the Rajya Sabha and the Lok" Sabha. Can't we do something? Is it permissible under the rules? Can we give something from our Constituency Fund? But we have certain limitations. As a Member of Parliament from Karnataka, I cannot spend outside Karnataka.

A Lok Sabha Member *....(Interruptions)....*

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: The Deputy Chairman has just now said "relaxing the Rules".

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will discuss the matter with the Minister concerned. We will see that they definitely get, as soon as possible, atleast the fund meant for the Orissa MPs. And if other Members of Parliament also want to give some money out of their fund, they are also welcome. Suppose, if I want to give some money out of my area development fund, then the

Government can consider relaxing the rules because it is a calamity, in real terms, over which all of us are concerned, not just the Orissa MPs rather, the entire nation is concerned; even the whole world is concerned about it.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: So, the Rajya Sabha Members from other States and the Lok Sabha Members also should join together. It is, of course, not our personal money. Moreover, the Members of Parliament have decided, the Chairman has taken the initiative here, the Speaker has taken the initiative in the'Lok Sabha, the Prime Minister has also taken the initiative; the Council of Ministers are contributing one month's salary from their personal income. In addition to this, the idea of giving some money from the constituency fund should also be given shape. I am happy that you are going to discuss the matter with the concerned Minister. And if some meaningful solution is found out at the earliest, it would be better.

Secondly, with regard to cheques or DDs, that are being sent to the State Government or to the Prime Ministers' Relief Fund or to the NGOs, I would like to suggest that the commission or the premium what would you call it in the case of DD.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Bank charges

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Okay. I would suggest to the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to take up the matter with the Finance Ministry and see that whether that nominal amount could be done away with, since it is an humanitarian activity. Madam, my party has collected three crores of rupees. They have set a target, and this amount will go to the people. If we go to the bank, they say that you will have to pay this much for getting the DD. If we send the amount by cheque, you know, Madam, nowadays, it takes a lot of time; and then it has to be realised. All these things are there. I hope the Minister will take up this issue and get it done. I am happy the Telecommunications Department has decided to waive the charges for the two months for the people and the telephone subscribers belonging to the affected districts. Indian Airlines has come forward to transport.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Whether they had got the telephone connection.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: There were telephones. Charges have to be paid.

SHRI RANGANATH MISRA (Orissa) : They have to be installed and

connected first.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I agree. I am not on that issue. The Ministry has come forward to waive the rental charges of telephones which existed at the time of cyclone. Restoration is an important task. There is no doubt about it. Reconnection and restoration has to be done on a war-footing. I talked to Mr. Ram Vilasji this morning. He said, " it is going on a war-footing. Much of the restoration work has already been carried out. Though there are some deficiencies, these will be addressed immediately." The Railways have also come forward to carry all these things free of cost. The Railways, the Civil Aviation Department and the Supplies Department have also said that whatever foodgrains are needed for these people, we will make it available to the State Government of Orissa. This stand has been taken by the Government. I appreciate all these efforts. Now I come back to the point which I was mentioning. There should be proper coordination between different agencies which are involved in these activities. I have some experience about it. I have also worked as a volunteer umpteen times as and when there was any natural calamity in Andhra Pradesh. I was one of the volunteers in relief activities. In 1977, when dead bodies were required to be removed, we found that many people came forward. RSS also came forward. Then some people from the Central Jail also came forward. Police also came forward. Many other voluntary organizations also came forward. I have been told that many organizations like RSS, Anandmargis, Rama Krishna Mission and other voluntary bodies have been doing a lot of yeoman service in Orissa. We should really appreciate it.

Secondly, the Government should involve all these organizations and set up a cyclone reconstruction authority for Orissa. There should be some coordination between the Central Government and the State Government. Let all the voluntary bodies be associated with these activities. Each one of them can be given a target to build houses,school buildings and community halls. As I said, even the corporate sector and the public sector undertakings can also be given some responsibility so that all of us together are able to rebuild the lives of the people of this State.

Madam, there is one more surprising or disturbing aspect. I was told that 40 per cent of the employees of the State Secretariat were from that region. The moment mis cyclone struck the State, these people started going back to their respective places. That is also one of the reasons for the collapse of the

administrative system in the State capital. Even the employees, their families, and their relatives were also affected. That has also added to the miseries of the people there. Now, organizations like FICCI, CH, NABARD and other similar organizations should also be consulted. They should also be involved in these activities. It should not be left to the State Government only. The Central Government should really get in touch with these organizations. Madam, I think, some work has already started in this direction. Another important aspect is drinking water. People there are drinking water which is available in the fields and canals. They are drinking contaminated water. Contaminated water is spreading diseases. Therefore, some steps should be taken immediately. In the urban areas we have access to mineral water. I don't say that they should be given mineral water. But some sort of temporary mechanism should be evolved in all district headquarters, tehsils, mandals, etc. so that fresh drinking water can be provided to all the people; otherwise, diseases will increase further and there will be more casualties. So far as medicine, health and sanitation facilities are concerned, there should be proper coordination between the Central Government and the State Government. There are no takers for whatever medicines and other things being sent there. I was told that the officers of the Border Roads Organisation and the Ministry of Defence have also been dispatched to Bhubaneswar. But as on today, they have not been put to proper use.

Then IRDP, NABARD, LIC and GIC should also be involved in the activity of rehabilitation. Some people had insured their lives and other things. There should be a certain time-limit within which the LIC and the GIC should settle their claims. As you know, Madam, there is a lot of corruption in public life. This will also add to the miseries of the people. I would like to request the hon Minister to fix a deadline for clearance of the claims. Then NABARD should be advised to convert the short-term loans into medium-term loans and medium-term loans into long-term loans. The Central Government should consult the State Government and both of them should come forward to waive certain amount of interest. Nowadays, there is a clamour for waiving interest on loans. But that is not possible. Everybody knows it. But something should be done in this regard because the farmers will have to cultivate their lands again and they will have to earn their livelihood also. So where is the question of repaying the loans? There should be some kind of a scheme of interest waiver; otherwise, simple reschedulement of loans, sometimes, becomes a heavy burden. So,

reschedulement with some amount of reduction or rebate, or whatever you call, with regard to the interest subsidy should also be given. And the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) should be asked to come to the rescue of the small scale industries. Their units have been totally washed-out. I was also told that in the Paradip Port -1 was in Visakhapatnam when I got the message the boats and ships which were stranded there were attacked, and properties were looted. I tried to get in touch with the hon. Defence Minister. But, he was somewhere between Karaikunda and Bhubaneswar. He was trying to land there. Finally, I got in touch with the office of the Home Ministry as well; they were trying to do something at that stage. Madam, even those persons whose properties have been damaged should be compensated to the extent possible by the Government of India.

So, while summing up, as I told you, Madam, I don't want to add much to this discussion I would like to state that the first and foremost thing is that the Administration in Orissa should be streamlined and activated, and they should get the NGOs involved in the work; they should get the political parties involved in it; they should strive to have a proper coordination system between the State Government and the Central Government agencies. A large number of Central Government agencies are going there to the rescue of the people. Hence, there should be a proper and perfect coordination. For the moment, let us forget politics. We have elections ahead of us. These issues can be discussed at that time. Now, the need of the hour is to forget political differences and come to the rescue of the people, put both the Central and the State Governments' resources and rescue the people to the extent possible, and show the rest of the world that we are here, as a State, which is committed to the welfare of the people, that we have been able to re-build the lives of the people of the State of Orissa. I hope that both the Central Government and the State Government would engage themselves in this activity. I would also like to appeal, though it is political in nature, that the administration in Orissa should be geared up, and things should be set right. I don't want to elaborate upon it and expand it further. Let there be no politics, please. The change of leadership is not the issue. The change of Chief Minister may not solve the problem. No doubt, it is your internal matter, and I am not going to interfere in it. But the issue is to come to the rescue of the people. Thank you, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Before I adjourn for lunch, I would like to say one thing. The time that has been given for this Short Duration

Discussion, as per the paper given to me, is two-and-a-half hours. But I have told the Secretariat that in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee, it was decided that the Discussion on Orissa would have more time. So, we will extend the time of it. If more Members from other political parties want to give their names for the Discussion, they will have time for it. And I have got enough time for the Minister and also if the Chairman of the Task Force wants to say something regarding what relief measures have been undertaken and so on, he can also be accommodated within these four hours, आप दोनों दीजिएगा। जिम्मेदारी तो पहले आपकी है। वह आपको सप्लीमेंट कर देंगे । It is for the Government to decide who must speak. It is a joint responsibility. I said it because there was a demand that the Chairman of the Task Force also should come before the House. He can answer certain questions as he is going there often. With these words, I adjourn the House for lunch till 2.15 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at eighteen minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at nineteen minutes past two of the clock.THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR) in the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): May I request Shri Nilotpal Basu to speak on the Short Duration Discussion on the super-cyclone

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on this subject. Sir, it is a very sad moment for the nation and this House also to discuss an issue which perhaps embodies the worst kind of tragedy that has overtaken us in, maybe, the whole of this century. I was raptly listening to Shri Venkaiah Naidu, and I think it is a pleasant occasion for me because I jnostly agree with what he has said. 1 want to congratulate him for many of the points he has made. Therefore, I will not go into many of the details because of the kind of material that has come out in the Press and that has been covered by the audio-visual media. The major aspect of the tragedy is now with us, and we are heavily burdened with it. Therefore, instead of going into the nitty-gritty of what happened, the point I would like to make, at the very outset, is, a tragedy of this dimension has not happened in this country. We don't enter into any hair-splitting debate on the nature of the calamity, and we are perfectly aware of the recommendations of the Finance Commissions. The main point

which has been made here Naiduji was suggesting about evolving some mechanism as to what should be the parametres for deeming a particular episode like this, when we call them incidents of natural calamity of a grave nature. But my point is, since there are no incidents before us of such a magnitude, to start with, we can deem this incident, the super-cyclone which hit Orissa, as a national calamity, and let us really not hark-back into the past as to what happened in other parts of the country at different points of time. L«t us start by treating this as a national calamity of a very, very grave nature. I think the main task which emerges out of this is that the funding mechanisms which were available to the country till now, as recommended by the Finance Commissions or the different committees, are grossly inadequate to* address the kind of problem that has overtaken Orissa. Let us focus this debate on how much financial resources can be channelled to face this challenge that the aftermath of the super-cyclone is posing in Orissa. That is the moot issue. Both the hon. Ministers, Shri Nitish Kumarji and Shri George Saheb are here. We would like to know from them about the total assistance we have sent there till now, and out of this, how much is grant and how much is loan. I think Naiduji was making a very valid point about the interest waiver. We know the finite nature of the public exchequer in this country, but of this, how much more we can really allot for Orissa to meet the situation that Orissa is now saddled with. That is the moot issue. Therefore, the money that should go there, the major fund flow to the State, should not be in terms of interest-burden loan, but in the nature of grants. We would also like to know what the Government of India has given, what the Government of India intends to give, what is the loan component, what is the grant component and by how much more we can increase the share.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, you would recail that it was a sheer coincidence that last time when we were discussing this issue in this House, at that very moment, the super-cyclone was hitting the hapless coastal districts of Orissa, and at that time, we were also relating our experiences about the major havoc caused in our State by floods. You have seen that inspite of the fact that no support has been received from the Government of India, so far as the flood ravages are concerned, we have not raised it even once. I think we too are equal in facing the challenge. But it was very sad. I think the cyclone could not have come at a more inopportune time than this because the State is going to the polls in three-four months. That is also a very, very unfortunate time, so far as the cyclone is concerned. Pardon me for saying so. One cannot

escape from the impression. It is okay that this debate or discussion is taking place in a very congenial atmosphere, but the actual statements that are coming from different people could have been better tailored and they could have been better-informed with regard to the challenges of the situation, rather than speaking on political compulsions of facing the elections, maybe, in four-five months' time.

At the same time, 1 would also like to mention that normally we, from the Left, the CPI(M) in particular, do not indulge in talking about developments in other parties. What is happening in Orissa? Who is going to lead the State Government? It pains us. This is not the proper time. We are not holding any brief for anybody. We are also not suggesting as to who should be the leader. But the point is, this sends a very, very wrong signal.

Dr. Das has spoken. Mr. Naidu has spoken. One very positive thing comes out of the entire discussion.The State Government, the NGOs and other organisations, irrespective of their political affiliations, have all responded excellently to the situation. Gujarat has responded; West Bengal has responded; Andhra Government has responded; Maharashtra has responded and some other State Governments have also responded. We could overcome in terms of the response by the State Governments and by different kinds of organisations the political division that is there today in our polity. I do not want to apportion any blame on anybody, but we are all unfortunate spectators of the spectacle of this unseemly debate going on. Neither should we belittle the magnitude of the disaster, nor should we try to really avoid taking responsibility for what is happening. We do not hold any brief for the State Government. We know, there are so many problems. But while talking about it, if we do not remind you about the magnitude of the disaster, it would be unfair. What we feel is that, inspite of human efforts, many requirements of the situation could not be properly addressed. But that does not mean that many of the things which ought to have been done are properly being addressed today. Unless our actions, our speeches, our interventions and our statements are marked by a sober approach or a sober appraisal of the situation, we would let our people down by trying to apportion the blame on each other. This is for the Central Government also. Let us not go into the issue of whether this is a national calamity or not. This is an extra-ordinary one, this is an unprecedented one. We should ensure that in our efforts both financial support and co-ordination of other activities in terms of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction, are reflected with urgency. That has to be

really established.The nature of the disaster emphasises the fact that we really need a long-term plan because as we know it is not only a question of human lives. We know the kind of conventional methods of counting deaths in a normal kind of situation, in a normal kind of natural calamity. That is proving to be totally inadequate because till now the number of deaths officially counted is about ten thousand. But in a situation where the tidal waves have risen to a height of 35ft.,(Time-bell) I think, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Deputy Chairman also mentioned when she was in the Chair that the time was slightly expanded because we have more time at our dispose... *(Interruptions)*..... I will not be very long.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): The time is being expanded to accommodate more *speakers....(Interruptions)....*

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, normally we have allotted time on the basis of parties.... *(Interruptions)...:.*

The VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR) : Yes, it is there....*(Interruptions)....* You have exhausted ten minutes of the twelve. *....(Interruptions)...* Please continue.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: So what was important here was that many, many people were swept away by tidal waves. There can be no count of them. Therefore, in terms of deaths also, I think there is no parallel in recent history in this country to the magnitude of the disaster. Then come the kind of losses to houses and other constructions. Then there is an entire ecological disorder which people are mentioning, such as salinity of the soil. They also fear that most probably they will go straight into drought. Then there is the problem of health. An epidemic has already broken out in some parts of these coastal districts. Then there is the problem of contamination of water. Even potable water is not available. Our short point is that we have lost precious human lives, it is a situation which was beyond our control. But, at the same time these are the issues which can be addressed with a proper human intervention. Communicable diseases can be stopped if we have the kind of proper human intervention. There is the question of salinity of the soil. Some alternative methods for going in for other alternative crops should be found so that the livelihood of the people there can be saved. These things are in our hands if we put our resources together. And that has to be done because it is very important to understand that for Orissa this disaster is further more harmful because this State happens to be one of the poorest States where 40 per cent

of the people belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Somebody was mentioning that 85 per cent of this State are marginal farmers. Any disaster of this nature has no class barriers in terms of its victims. But, in any such situation it is the poor who get hurt more because the poor are not empowered with the wherewithal whereby they can restore themselves back to their economic activities. Therefore, this is another area where,-I think, the question of mobilising resources as much as possible comes in. I think the lessons for the future also have to be properly drawn. I would like to reiterate - I raised this in an earlier discussion also- that for this ground is there, as we have seen from the response of different State Governments. Now, we in our very modest way tried to organise relief work and all that in Bengal, it being the neighbouring State. Our experience is that the response has been overwhelming. In many cases actually we did not have to organise the relief work. People are spontaneously coming out to contribute. What I mean to say is that it is an 'all parties' nature of response that is indicative of the fact that there is a strong ground for depoliticising and professionalising the whole question of disasters of this magnitude. So, the Government is indicating that it is going to build some kind of Orissa level reconstruction panels. What we are saying is, we have to do something of this nature with regard to Orissa. We can discuss this. All the parties and the State Governments can also be involved, as to how to address them. But, for the future, unless we really put in place a national disaster management machinery, it is very difficult. Now, the question has come up of having constructions suitable for cyclone-prone areas. Similarly, for other kinds of natural calamities, these things have to be developed properly. Many people do not understand. We are not far-sighted. It was reported that public sector units are going there. We join everybody in congratulating the armed forces and all the other agencies that are involved. But people are not mentioning the private sector. When you talk of adopting an economic policy, which gives primacy to all kinds of market forces, this situation has come up as an aftermath. While we are readdressing that kind of a situation, where has the market-driven economic-strategy gone? Are they really adequate to address the exigencies of the situation? That is also something which is to be pondered over. Today, if we start discussing about such structures, such policies or institutions, which will take care of the kind of exigencies that may arise at a future point of time, maybe, in some other parts of the country, we can be better prepared to address them. I would like to thank you for giving me some extra time. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RANGANATH MISRA (Orissa): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman. I rise to add to the sentiments that have been expressed. When I was in school in 1937, a cyclone hit the school and surrounding areas and some of the students were injured. I also suffered an injury. From 1937 onwards, I have been very particular about all cyclones that came. And, for sixty-two years, I have seen cyclones that have hit Orissa. I meticulously follow every cyclone. I devoted my entire time. I never saw a "super-cyclone." This is for the first time where people are calling a cyclone as a "super-cyclone." Therefore, it is certainly an exception. Sir, cyclones, for the coastal States on the Bay of Bengal side, have become an annual event. Sometimes, it would hit Chennai area, or, sometimes, it would hit Andhra area, or, sometimes, it would hit Orissa or Bengal; and, on many occasions, it would change its direction and hit Bangladesh. Cyclones have become an annual event. Our people have become used to cyclones. But this has been an unusual event. That is the reason why the term "super-cyclone", has, for the first time, been added to the terminology. All that has happened is not necessary to be reiterated because the earlier speakers have spoken about it. We are facing some immediate problems. Sir, Orissa has a short winter; and winter is about to settle. The minimum temperature is touching about 11 degrees, or even 10 degrees. That is the cold weather for us and people are not used to that level of temperature. The second problem is, we do not have houses for the people who have suffered. Most of the kachha houses have come down and there is no roof. Therefore, for the people to live in, sheds are necessary. We are in dire need of polythene. Adequate polythene supply had not come and even where it had come, it has not got distributed. The third difficulty is, for children, there is no milk. There are many orphan children. In fact, I saw a child which was born during the course of the cyclone. The day I went there, it was about the sixth day of the child. So, such children do not have any source of milk. Milk powder is not being distributed in that area. Then, there are problems like food. The havoc took place when the paddy was ready for harvest. In another two weeks, 1 think, paddy would have been cut. Suddenly, all this happened. The paddy has been totally damaged by saline water. The saline water remained there, covering the fields, for more than five to six days. Now, if we see the paddy crop, we will find that the entire thing is empty. There is nothing inside. Therefore, the chances of using the crop have totally gone. Then, one thing which has to be looked into is food, for sometime to come. The other thing is not to have any rice or paddy

from their fields; instead ,we should plan for four to five months beyond this period. Another thing connected with it is, absence of employment. The normal employment for the agriculturalists would have been their fields. The fields would not be ready because they have been hit by saline water. It may take three to four years to wash out the salinity. Therefore, the chances for rabi crop are very remote. In other words, the land which has been covered by saline water would not be available for rabi crop also. Seeds are being provided. Government has provided some money also. I am not questioning that aspect. But even if seeds are available, the land is not ready for sowing seeds, and nothing would grow. It would only mean further labour to be invested, without any return. So, for the time being, as a rehabilitation programme, we would require polythene covers. We would require food, we would also require water to drink. Perhaps, as an immediate measure, hundreds of tubewells could be dug and made effective. In that case, the water which will be drawn from underground would be better than the polluted water which is still available on the surface. So, some such attention should be immediately given. Wearing apparel is also a necessity. Winter clothes would also be a necessity. Government has been distributing winter clothes in some areas. I saw some private organizations from Punjab which have also carried a lot of woollen clothes. The Government of Punjab has been working there, and operating very well there. The Minister of Education, a lady, is there on the spot. She comes back and goes there. She has already covered there twice. Third time she would be going there. The other day when I met her, she said that she would again be coming back. Private initiative is also there. In fact, it is very visible. Even from outside, offers have been coming. A lot of money is coming. In fact, NRIs have raised funds. They are looking for some modality for the money to come and get converted into kind so that the people may get something useful for them. Money does not at all matter. Ultimately, what matters is food to eat, something to wear and somewhere to live. All of us have been talking of reconstruction, rebuilding. But the poor man does not require a pucca house. Seventy-five per cent of our people live in totally kuccha houses. Some people may be having brick walls with thatched covers. But whether it is mud or brick, everything has settled down due to water. We had thatched houses. But this year straw would not be available. All the straw has gone. Therefore, what is necessary is to build up something else. I do not think they can afford to wait for construction of houses. You have got to provide some type of temporary

housing to these people. Therefore, an immediate residential arrangement has to be worked out; and then, a long-term plan has to be made. If the Government is thinking of construction, then both these things must be kept in view. We cannot avoid it by saying that money need not be spent; a permanent arrangement would be made. We cannot afford to wait. I find that schools, particularly, at the primary and the middle level, have all collapsed because 90% of these institutions were not having concrete roofs. Therefore, they have all broken. Unless the schools are built up, the children those who are left, would not have schooling and the whole system will fail. Therefore, special attention has to be given to restoring the school buildings and finding out whether teachers are there and how many students are left because, at this moment, one does not know all these things. All that has to be worked out.

My previous speakers spoke about the number of deaths. The Government has put it at 10,000, on account of the fact that they have found 10,000 dead bodies. But the sea has taken probably a large number of people inside apart from the people who have died near the sea area itself. There number may be between 25,000 and 30,000. It is difficult to believe or accept the number of dead. We must have a census type of thing, after things settle down, and the areas that are cut off are connected, to find out what exactly is the number of loss of human beings, per family. Then only we will be able to know that. I am aware of the fact that 50,000 Bangladeshi fishermen, who never had any record in the locality, nor any permanent construction to live in, were living on the seaside. They were excellent fishetmen. They were living on fish, catching fish, and they used to go into the sea with smaii boats and were managing their way. Therefore, that has got to be looked into. The number may be more than 50,000 and 60,000. The British Broadcasting Corporation has been emphasizing that according to them, the estimate is above 50,000 and 60,000. So, we have to work it out. It is a story of struggling humanity. It is a story of human sentiments and probably exhibition of compassion. I have seen a lot of people who have come from outside. They saw the scenery or the. situation, tears have rolled down from their eyes; but rolling tears will not be enough. We require something more. We require something concrete. We require the alleviation of their problems, the local problems. I have also noticed that there are a iot of orphans; their parents have died. Somebody had both the parents living, some child had only one, either the father or the mother. There is nobody to take care. We came across a village where there was an adolescent girl, aged 12-13, the lone

across a village where there was an adolescent girl, aged 12-13, the lone survivor of the village. We saw on the television a man - I tried to look for that man; 1 could not get him - he came from a joint family of 41 persons, narrating his horrifying experiences. It is a tale of human suffering. What is necessary for everyone is to have a feeling for the people who have suffered and to step in an adequate way to help them. The Government must come forward. A lot of governmental help has come, from the various States; help has also come from individuals. It is flowing. There is no problem. But rebuilding the entire area will be a herculean task and we must rise to the occasion. I know Mr. Fernandes for quite a good number of years. I am sure he will bear this in mind. He will remember that Orissa had helped his State once upon a time by converting Ashoka from a killer to a Dharmasukh. He must now pay back to Orissa through his service, after 2300 years. He must work it out in an effective way. He takes matters seriously. That is what I am told. My own impression is also the same. I hope the building process would be effective. I have an appeal. Though the Government of India is agreeing that it is a super cyclone and that it is a national calamity, they are not declaring it a national calamity. This is the first time that such a thing has happened. I have not seen a cyclone of the speed of 280 or 290 kilometres. Nor have I ever seen a cyclone, instead of advancing, stopping at one place and keep turning. What happened actually is that the loss of trees or houses is on account of the fact that between Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, towards the Paradip side, it stopped in the eastern direction for about 14 to 15 hours and kept turning. So, anything that came within it was uprooted. The houses have even been thrown out of their locations. Therefore, this is a situation where special attention is necessary.

I suggest that immediate steps be taken and that an authority for reconstruction be set up, which should have the charge of a temporary location as also a permanent facility. Both should be there.

I repeat that educational institutions must start working immediately *so* that the children who should be in schools may not be left out. We have been saying that education is a Fundamental Right. We are introducing a Bill to that effect, to make it a Fundamental Right. It will remain in the Constitution as a Fundamental Right, but it will never come to be physically exercised or physically visible that children get educated. I don't want you to ring the bell again. Therefore, I would stop here. But I thought that this was a matter where there should be no time limit. Thank you.

shelter construction programme to be posed for World Bank assistance. Regarding agricultural land, all the land has become saline and much of it is sand-cast. It will take a long time for reclaiming the land. I would request the Government to take land reclamation on a war footing so that the farmers are able to grow their crop in the next season.

Sir, our Chief Minister, who is heading the Government of Andhra Pradesh, a neighbouring State of Orissa, as a good neighbour, has rendered all the possible assistance to the State. We are proud that our Chief Minister is being applauded by the people of Orissa for the timely help rendered to them. In times of need, it is the humanitarian touch and the national spirit that is uppermost in the agenda of our Chief Minister and the people of Andhra Pradesh. It has been amply proved. The first people to reach the affected sites in Orissa were the Andhra Pradesh officers. They had been there even when the cyclone was on. A former Relief Commissioner reached the Berhampur on 31.10.1999 itself. Our Director-General of Police with his battalion was the first to reach there. They did a good job. I thank all our officers who have rendered their service in the affected places in Orissa.

Sir, in Andhra also many districts have been affected. Nearly half of the State is reeling under drought. More than half of the Mandals of the State are reeling under drought. The entire crop is gone. Our Chief Minister has rendered_all assistance to the affected people and has written to the Centre for assistance to the tune of Rs.755 crores. Not a single paisa has yet been released by the Centre. I earnestly ^urge upon the Government to release funds.

In the North Coastal Andhra, cyclone started on 17.10.1999 causing > extensive damage to public and private property throughout Srikakulam district. Due to high speed gales, the coconut plantation in vast areas of northern Mandals of Srikakulam district were extensively damaged. Reports reveal that nearly four lakh coconut trees were fully uprooted and another four lakh coconut trees were partially damaged. The loss is estimated to be to the tune of Rs.300 crores. The electrical installations, roads, minor irrigation sources, fishermen houses in coastal villages etc. were severely damaged. The total estimated loss in all the sectors comes to Rs.237 crores. Our Chief Minister has visited those places and has extended the maximum possible assistance in the rehabilitation process. The Chief Minister has also written a letter to hon. Prime. Minister for release of immediate assistance of Rs.40

3.00 P.M.

crores to provide relief to the affected people. So far no relief amount has been released by the Centre. I would request the hon. Prime Minister to release the relief amount in order to come to our rescue. I also urge upon the Central Government to send officials from the Coconut Board to assess the damage caused to the coconut plantation and to render all necessary guidance. In this connection, our Chief Minister has sent so many reminders for the release of funds. I request the Government to be kind enough to release the funds immediately so that we can go ahead with the relief operation.

VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR) : Mr. Sanatan Bisi. "

You and Mrs. Kamla Sinha have six minutes..... *(Interruptions)....* They don't

speak together, but they will speak in *....(Interruptions)....*

SHRI SANATAN BISI (Orissa) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Short Duration Discussion on the unprecedented super-cyclone which devastated coastal districts of Orissa on 29-30 October, 1999. First of all, I will draw the attention of the Agriculture Minister as well as the Minister in charge of the Task Force, Mr. George Fernandes, to the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission and the Tenth Finance Commission. I do not know what the powers and functions of the Task Force are. So far as the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission and the Tenth Finance Commission are concerned, they are very clear. No doubt, the plight of the people is very bad. No doubt, we are sympathetic with the State Government of Orissa. There is no difficulty. But the question is : How much will the Central Government be able to do? The recommendations of the Finance Commissions are binding. I want to know from the Minister whether the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission and the Tenth Finance Commission have been taken into account while formulating the powers and functions of the Task Force. Can it go beyond the recommendations of both the Finance Commissions? This is one difficulty. We have a doubt about it. Yesterday, I gave a notice to raise this issue in the form of a Calling Attention Motion, but it was converted into a Short Duration Discussion. So, I will be putting my questions as they are done in a Calling Attention Motion. I want to know from the Minister concerned, what the powers and functions of the Task Force are. So far as natural calamities are concerned, there are guidelines set by the Ninth Finance Commission and the Tenth Finance Commission in regard to disbursement of

funds.

Secondly, we are talking about the super-cyclone. When I visited those places, at that time, I had suggested if there was a super-cyclone, it should adopt super-infrastructure programme and scheme. So, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Central Government can go in for a super-infrastructure programme and scheme through their various Ministries.

The other thing is regarding the demand of their own partner in the Government at the Centre. They said that it should be declared as a national calamity. But, yesterday, the Agriculture Minister stated , "There cannot be such a declaration. The Government of India is helping the State Government and attending to everything. The Prime Minister has promised to give all help. There cannot be such a thing." This is the situation.

So far as the business rules of the Central Government are concerned, I will narrate them. First of all, I will draw the attention of the House to the observations of the Ninth Finance Commission. It has been clearly stated in the Ninth Finance Commission's report under natural calamities what the Central Government can do. I want to know from the Minister whether the present Government has obtained any information from the State Government. I want to quote from the Ninth Finance Commission's report, page 44, sub-para 5_: "The State level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the State and consisting of officials connected with the relief work and other experts "shall be constituted by the State Government to administer the Calamity Relief Fund. The Committee will decide on matters connected with finance, relief expenditure, including various things in the norms of assistance." So, I want to know from the Minister concerned, when the Task Force headed by Mr. George Fernandes was constituted. Was it constituted in consultation with the Chief Secretary of the State as enumerated in sub-para 5? I want to refer to the same page, sub-para 9. It says that the Centre should constitute an expert group to monitor relief work done in the State, utilising the Calamity Fund and also to give such advice as it deems it appropriate, to the State agencies involved in the relief work. The word "advice" is there. I am not criticising anybody. I am only mentioning the difficulties and how things are going on. In THE TIMES OF INDIA dt.29-11-99, it has been reported that a meeting headed by the Prime Minister was formed. The Committee adopted a resolution charging the Congress led Government in Orissa. Number one, I am not going into the details. Number

two, the State Government has suspended the State Relief Commissioner. The Task Force was headed by him. He said, "The Orissa Government would not have to bear the cost of polythene sets even if it was higher." So, my question to the Minister concerned will be whether the Central Government, while advising, can draw such observations. It is simply a question of advice. What has the Tenth Finance Commission said about the declaration of a national calamity? I would quote the relevant portion from its report. It is at page 42, sub-para 9.3. It reads, "The total of the States aggregated to Rs.804 crores. If any region faced a calamity of rare severity, the Centre was expected to take appropriate action as the situation demanded and incur the necessary expenditure." The Commission did not define what constituted 'rare severity'. My submission would be, when there is a demand for declaration of a national calamity, they can find out from the Commission's observations or the business rule under what circumstances they can declare that. If they cannot do it, they must spell out very clearly under what circumstances they are not doing it when such a case is there. It has not been defined either by the Ninth Finance Commission or the Tenth Finance Commission as to what situation it should be. (time-bell).

Sir, I have told you in the Business Advisory Committee itself. Yesterday, in the Business Advisory Committee, I gave a notice to be adopted in the form of a calling-attention. I should be given a chance. I have not concluded yet.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): We are giving a certain time limit for a party. Your time limit was ...*(Interruptions)....*

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal) : Sir, please give him enough time. He is from the State.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR) : I agree with you. I am aware of it. You can rest assured of it. The time given was six minutes for both of you, You have already taken seven minutes.

SHRI SANATAN BISI: Sir, I will not take much time. I will put forth my points in brief. What is the real problem? The problem is whether they should go by the observations of the Ninth and Tenth Finance Commissions or the business rule. What are the powers and functions of the Task Force? What are the powers of the Central Government? Can they go against the recommendations made? This being a State subject, the Chief Secretary is

responsible for all these things. Who will do all these things? When we undergo this plight, no doubt, you want to do everything for us. Under what circumstances you will be able to help us should also be known. Till now, the Central Government or the Prime Minister or both the Ministers have not stated anything. They are simply going on telling that it cannot be termed as a national calamity. But so far as the recommendation is concerned, it is not very clear. These are the things I want to know first.

Sir, I have visited two or three places. I have visited the Niali Block of Cuttack. I have visited Kakatpur also. I would like to submit that in our State, the required number of ration cards were not issued earlier. After this calamity, how is the Government going to issue the cards? I have found that even the BPL card has not been issued to all. How will the poor people get their PDS rice? The third thing is the Employment Assurance Scheme. The EAS cards have not been issued to all the persons. How are they going to regulate all these things? My submission would be, it is the duty of the Minister concerned to tell us what the Central Government will be able to do because it is a State subject. So far as the recommendation is concerned, it is in the nature of an advice.

Lastly, I want to know from the Government one thing about the business rules, whether by the nature of the business rule or by the Cabinet Committee, they can get over all these things to mitigate the problems arising from the calamity. Will they be able to do it? I thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, for the opportunity and time given to me.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): Thank you, Mr. Sanatan Bisi. I appreciate your sentiments. Now, Mr. Bairagi. You have five minutes.

श्री बालकवि बैरागी (**मध्य प्रदेश**): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे इस विषय पर बोलने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूं। महोदय, पहले वक्ता दास साहब से लेकर अब तक जो कुछ भी कहा गया है, उसमें जितनी भी मानवीय संवेदना है, मैं उसमें अपने आपको शामिल करता हूं। मैं कही हुई बातों से हटकर कुछ अलग कहने की कोशिश करूंगा। मेरा विश्वास है कि कृषि मंत्री महोदय और फर्नाडिस

साहब मेरी बातों का नोटिस लेंगे।

महोदय, इस महीने की 3 तारीख को नेपाल में कांठमांडू में एक कान्फ्रेंस हुई थी। बडी कांफ्रेंस थी इम्पो देशों की। नौ देशों के लोग थे और वहां एक प्रस्ताव पास करके उडीसा के तूफान पीडितों के लिए सहानुभूति प्रक्ट की गई । मैं उन सभी नौ देशों का भी बहुत आभार मानता हूं। सहायता के काम में जो सराकरें इसमें शामिल हो गई मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार भी उसमें एक है उसने अगुवाई भी की है। उन सबकों भी मैं धन्यवाद देता हूं। माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, कुछ बातें ऐसी हैं जिन पर हमको थोड़ा सा हट करके विचार करना पड़ेगा। आखिर सन् 1977 में आन्ध्र प्रदेश में जो एक सबसे बड़ा तूफान आया थाअ, चक्रवात आया था उसके बारे में उससे आहत होने के बाद में एक कमीशन बैठा था। वह कमीशन प्रो.ए. के. साग की अध्यक्षता में था। उस कमीशन ने एक रिपोर्ट दी थी और एक चक्रवात संहिता भी उस कमीशन ने तैयार की थीं। 22 वर्ष पुरानी उस संहिता का पता हमको लगाना चाहिए कि उन्होंने क्या बातें उसमें उठाई थी और क्या कहा था? उन्होंने उसमें जो मुद्दे दिए थे उन पर हम कितना सोच पाए और कितना विचार कर पाए। इतना ही नहीं इससे भी पहले आज से 35-36 साल पहले सन् 1963 में एक सरकारी पब्लिकेशन हुआ था। उसमें भी तूफान के बारे में काफी कुछ कहा गया था, काफी उसमें विचार किया गया था। उस पुस्तिका को भी वापिस ढुंढवाना चाहिए और ढुंढवाकर देखना चाहिए कि तब के लोगों ने क्या चिंता प्रकट की थी। जब यह सदन बहस कर रहा है और यह सदन चिंता व्यक्त कर रहा है उस समय हम एक संधिकाल में खड़े है कि एक तूफान गुजर चुका है और कहा जा रहा है कि वही संकेत हमको फिर से मिल रहा है कि संभवतः दिसम्बर में एक और तूफान आने की संभावना है। ऐसा अखबारों में छप रहा है। मैं कुछ बातें जानना चाहता हूं। यह ठीक है कि मौसम विभाग ने चक्रवात की चेतावनी दी थी लेकिन हमारे मौसम वैज्ञानिक स्वयं ही इस मामले में अनिश्चित रहे कि उनकी भविष्यवाणी कहां जाकर के गलत हो गई । अप्रैल, 1999 में हमने इनसेट 2 ई छोड़ा था। उसके सिगनल दो महीने पहले से आना बंद हो गए। इस इनसेट से हमको कोई सूचना नहीं मिली तथा वह तो महीने से बंद हो गया। इस तूफान की जो सूचना हमको मिली वह इनसेट 1 डी से मिली जो कि 9 साल पुराना था। यह कहा जा रहा है कि शायद यह सूचनाएं गलत थी तथा यह पुराना इनसेट था। तो इसके बारे में कहीं न कहीं गड़बडी हुई है इसका परीक्षण करवाना चाहिए, जांच करवानी चाहिए।

एक चीज और है, उसको भी देखना पड़ेगा । 1977 में आन्ध्र में जो तूफान आया था वह 250 किलोमीटर प्रति घंटा की रफ्तार से आया था और यह जो अभी उडीसा में

तूफान आया है वह 250 से लेकर के 350 किलोमीटर प्रति घंटा की रफ्तार वाला था और जैसा दास साहब ने बताया और जैसा रंगनाथ मिश्र जी कह रहे थे कि 48 घंटे तक यह तूफान हमारे सामने बना रहा । 36 घंटे तो इसके चढ़ने में लगे और करीब-करीब 12 घंटे इसको उतरने में लगे और एक ही जगह आकर टिक गया। इसने सबसे ज्यादा डेमेज पुरी के क्षेत्र में किया है। सौ किलोमीटर तक के पुरी के सारे क्षेत्र को इसने वाश-अवे कर दिया क्योंकि वहां जंगल सबसे ज्यादा कटे थे। अभी राव साहब ने चिंता व्यक्त की है और वह बहुत गंभीर चिंता है। सारी बातें हम कर रहे हैं लेकिन दो-तीन बातें इसमें उभरकर आई हैं। एक तो वहां पर स्कूल जल्दी शुरू हो जाएंगे । तो मेरा विश्वास है कि सहज जीवन शुरु हो गया है। इससे आत्मविश्वास लोगों में लौटेगा। दूसरे, करीब –करीब डेढ करोड़ लोग इससे प्रभावित हैं। बीस लाख फेमिलीज इससे प्रभावित हैं। उन बीस लाख फेमिलीज को राशनकार्ड जितनी जल्दी बंट जाएंगे उससे उनकी नॉर्मल लाइफ शुरु होने में सुविधा होगी। तीसरे, जो मुद्दा राव साहब ने उठाया है उस पर विचार करना पड़ेगा। मछली तो समुद्र में वापिस आ जाएंगी। उनका आना शुरु भी हो गया होगा। लेकिन नारियल के पेड़ से फसल आने में बीस वर्ष लगते हैं। जिन लोगों की सारी इकॉनोमी नारियल पर थी वह लोग क्या करेंगे तथा इन कोकोनट वालों का क्या होगा, इस पर आपको विचार करना पड़ेगा , सोचना पड़ेगा और हमारे डिपार्टमेंट को इसमें आगे आना पड़ेगा। मैं एक और चीज जानना चाहता हूं तथा मैं कृषि मंत्री महोदय के ध्यान में विशेष तौर से लाना चाहता हूं कि क्या कारण है कि हमारे अपने सूचना के जितने तंत्र थे, जितनी मशीनें थी, जितने हमारे उपग्रह थे वह सब के सब असफल हो गए। अमेरिका और जापान के संसाधनों ने हमकों पहले खबर दी, उनकी छाया पड़ती रही तब भी हम संकेत नहीं लेते रहे। हमारे सारे के सारे सूचना तंत्र पहले ही विफल हो चुके थे या सूचना प्राप्त करने में ही असफल हो गए थे। इसका क्या कारण था? इस विनाशकारी चक्रवात के बारे में उन्होंने कुछ नहीं बताया । भारत को अपने उपग्रहों से हर आधे घंटे में चित्र मिलते रहते हैं। लेकिन यह चित्र मिलना कब से बंद हो गए। क्यों बंद हो गए? एक सारे नैटवर्क का अगर आप परीक्षण नहीं कराएंगे तो हम आगे जाकर जरूर फंस जाएंगे । मुझे आपसे एक निवेदन और करना है। पहले जब 77 का ऎक्ट था, साह साहब वाली जो रिपोर्ट आई है, उसमें उन्होंने एक बात कही थी कि कुछ राडार ऎसे विशेष लगवाए जाएं जो हमारे कोस्टल क्षेत्रों में ज्यादा सेवा कर सकें। अभी हमारे पास ऎसी रेंज वाले राडार हैं जिनकी 400 किलोमीटर की रेंज है लेकिन डॉपलर राडार भी होता है और उसको लगाने की रिकमंडेशन हमारे पास थी लेकिन हमने उस पर बिलकुल विचार नहीं किया। डॉपलर राडार क्यों नहीं लगे और यदि वे लग जाते तो शायद हमको सूचनाएं जल्दी मिल जातीं ,कुछ इस पर विचार होना चाहिए। मैं जानता

हूं कृषि मंत्री महोदय, आपको तो विरासत में तूफान मिला है। आपको तो ये चक्रवात वसीयत में मिला है, आप क्या करते ? आप तो बाद में आए हैं यहां पर लेकिन फिर भी हम यदि नोटिस ले सकेंगे तो बडी कृपा होगी।

दूसरा उन्होंने एक विशेष चक्रवात समीक्षा समिति का गठन भी किया था, उस समिति का क्या हुआ? उस समिति ने कोई रिपोर्ट दी या नहीं दी? मैं आप्से बाईस साल पहले की बात कर रहा हूं। छत्तीस साल पहले तय कर दिया गया था और भारत सरकार के गृह मंत्रालय ने एक संकटकालीन राहत संगठन योजना बनाई थी पैंतीस-छत्तीस वर्ष पहले। उस डिपार्टमेंट का, उस योजना का क्या हुआ? इसके पुराने पेपर्स निकलवा कर इसका अध्ययन किया जाना चाहिए।

एक विशेष निवेदन और भी करना चाहता हूं आपसे कि 26 फुट ऊंचाई तक लहरें उठ गई और टिक गई । 26 फुट ऊंची, आठ-आठ मीटर तक चली गई और उसके बाद हम उम्मीद करें कि वहां जनजीवन शेष बचेगा, कोई संभावना नहीं थी। सभी असहाय थे, कोई कुछ नहीं कर सकता था लेकि जितनी जल्दी हम घावों परमरहम लगा सकें, ऐसी हमें कोशिश करनी चाहिए। सबसे पहले यदि संचार साधनों से कोई कटा तो वह भुवनेश्वर था। सारे संसार से वह कट गया और सारे संसार से कटने के बाद वह हमसे भी कैसे जुड़ा रहता ? तो मेरा आपसे आग्रह है कि एक तो संचार प्रणाली तत्काल दुरुस्त की जाए, ठीक की जाए, व्यवस्थित की जाए। दूसरा जितनी सड़कें कट गई, यहां की सरकार और दूसरी सरकारें प्रयत्न करें तो यातायात और संचार प्रणाली जल्दी सुधरने से राहत कार्य जब खत्म हो जाएंगे, लंबे वर्षो तक भी चल सकते हैं ... उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मुश्किल से एकाध मिनट और लूंगा। जिस दिन वे राहत कार्य विदड्रॉ हो जाएंगे, उस दिन वहां के जनजीवन का क्या होगा? मैं आपको याद दिलाना चाहता हूं कि उस समिति के वक्त में वायुसेना ने सारा खर्चा वहन करने की जिम्मेदारी ली थी। बाईस वर्ष पहले की बात याद दिला रहा हूं । वायुसेना ने कहा था कि सारा खर्चा हम वहन करेंगे तटीय क्षेत्रों में सारी की सारी संचार सुविधाओं और अन्य बातों के लिए तो मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि दूसरे विभिन्न सदस्यों ने इस दिशा में कोई बात नहीं कही है लेकिन मेरे पास कुछ प्रमाण भी हैं, छोटा-मोटा थोड़ा सा अध्ययन भी है, होमवर्क भी है। मैं आपसे आग्रह और निवेदन करना चाहूंगा आपके गृह मंत्रालय से, आपके प्रतिरक्षा मंत्रालय से, नौसेना से, कृषि मंत्रालय से और सम्बद्ध सभी मंत्रालयों से कि इन सारी बातों पर विचार करके पुराने सारे के सारे

रिकॉर्ड निकलवा कर यदि आप अध्ययन करके कुछ आगे कदम बढ़ाएंगे तो हम शायद जान-माल की ज्यादा रक्षा कर सकेंगे। उडीसा क महाचक्रवात ने साबित कर दिया है कि भविष्य में विनाश से बचने की पक्की व्यवस्था हमको करनी होगी और भविष्यवाणियों में जो खामियां हैं, उनका अध्ययन करना पड़ेगा। आखिर हमारे राडार, उपग्रह औड़ कंप्यूटर ये सब किस दिन काम आएंगे?

मैं एक विशेष धन्यवाद और देना चाहूंगा। हमारी प्रतिपक्ष की नेता, कांग्रेस अध्यक्षा सोनिया जी वहां पर गई थी। उन्होंने वहां जाकर खुद मॉनीटरिंग की, स्टेंट गवर्नमेंट के काम को देखा, इसके लिए हम उनको धन्यवाद देते हैं। औड़ भी जो लोग वहां पर पहुंचे हैं मानवीय संवेदनाओं के साथ, हम उन सबको भी बधाई देते हैं औड़ धन्यवाद भी देते हैं और उम्मीद करते हैं कि इस चक्रवात के बहाने हम अगले कई भीषण चक्रवातों से बच सकेंगे, इतनी तैयार हमारी होनी चाहिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे बोलने के लिए समय दिया , मैं आपका बहुत आभारी हूं। धन्यवाद

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री अधिक शिरोडकर): धन्यवाद बालकवि बैरागी जी। श्री रामदेव भंडारी .... आपके लिए सिर्फ तीन मिनट हैं। .....(व्यवधान).....

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, there is no other business. Please give him a little more time ... *(Interruptions)....*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): I don't mind sitting continuously for ten hours.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Sir, since there is no other business, let the House run for some time more.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): I don't mind. I am willing to continue uninterrupted for hours together, as we have done last time; I am willing. I know the seriousness. I am aware, but if we avoid repetitions, perhaps, we will be able to convey to the Government some other suggestions which have not been made by others so that they will be better equipped. That is all I am saying. Please continue, Mr. Bhandary.

श्री रामदेव भंडारी (बिहार): महोदय, उस दिन भी उडीसा पर बहस हो रही थी, जब उडीसा के माननीय सदस्य श्री दास साहब बोल रहे थे। अपने भाषण के बीच में ही उन्होंने कहा कि इस समय उडीसा पर यहां बहस हो रही है और उडीसा में भयंकर तूफान

आने की संभावना है या दुबारा आने वाला है। उस दिन हम लोगों ने यह कल्पना नहीं की थी, ऐसा नहीं सोचा था कि यह तूफान इतना भयानक होगा, यह चक्रवात इतना बड़ा विनाश अपने साथ लाएगा और तकरीबन आधा उडीसा उसकी चपेट में आ जाएगा। उस समय समाचार पत्रों में और दूरदर्शन में जो चित्र दिखाई देता था, ऐसा लगता था कि पूरा उडीसा एक श्मशान भूमि जैसा बन गया है। कहीं पर मानव लाशें, कहीं पर पशुओं की लाशें और कहीं-कहीं पर तो दोनों की लाशें एक-दूसरे से मिली हुई पडी थीं। आफिशियल रिकार्ड के अनुसार दस हजार लोगों एक दूसरे से मिली हुई पडी थी। आफिशियल रिकार्ड के अनुसार दस हजार लोगों की मृत्यु हुई है, बीस लाख पशु मारे गए हैं। वहां पर जिले के जिले बर्बाद हो चुके हैं। हमारे कई माननीय सदस्यों ने इस संबंध में चर्चा की है। मैं समझता हूं कि उडीसा का विनाश ही नहीं हुआ है बल्कि सर्वनाश हुआ है।

महोदय, अपने देश में इस तरह की प्राकृतिक आपदाएं आती रहती हैं। कभी आन्ध्र में, कभी उडीसा में, कभी पश्चिमी बंगाल में, कभी दूसरे राज्यों में। मैं उत्तरी बिहार से आता हूं और वहां पर हर साल भयंकर बाढ़ आती है। एक बर नहीं, कई-कई बार आती हैं, तो इस प्रकार से पूरे देश में प्राकृतिक आपदाएं आती रहती हैं, ऐसा हम मानकर चलते हैं और हमको मानना चाहिए। महोदय, मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि यह जो प्राकृतिक विपत्तियां आती हैं इनके लिए एक राष्ट्रीय आपात कोष से केन्द्रीय सरकार राज्य सरकारों को सहायता देती है जिससे वे प्राकृतिक आपदाओं का मुकाबला करती हैं। इस कार्य में सभी मदद करते हैं। यह जो अकस्पात विपदाएं आती है जिसकी हम लोग पहले से कोई कल्पना नहीं करते हैं, इस तरह की स्थिति से निपटने के लिए जितनी सहायता की जरूरत पड़ती है वह सहायता केन्द्रीय सरकार ने नहीं मिल पाती है। खासकर उडीसा जैसे पिछड़े राज्य को, बिहार जैसे पिछड़े राज्य को , जिनके पास अपने संसाधन नहीं है, संसाधनों की कमी है, ऐसे राज्यों को समय पर सहायता देने के लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार से सहायता की आवश्यकता पड़ती है। मैं सरकार से जानना चाहूंगा कि ऐसी जो विपत्तियां अकस्पात आती हैं इनके लिए क्या कोई कार्य-योजना सरकार के पास है? क्योंकि इस तरह की विपत्तियां लगातार आती रहती हैं। इसलिए इनके लिए एक कार्य-योजना होनी चाहिए जिससे कि इनका सही प्रकार से मुकाबला किया जा सके। जब यह विपत्तियां स्थाई रूप ले रही है, तो मैं समझता हूं कि इसके लिए एक अलग मंत्रालय बनाया जाना चाहिए। जो मंत्रालय इसकी .....(व्यवधान).....

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम (**उत्तर प्रदेश**): वैसे ही मिनिस्टर 75 हो गए हैं एक और बढ़ जाएगा।

श्री रामदेव भंडारी: आपका भी नम्बर आ जाएगा। प्राकृतिक आपदाओं को संभालने के लिए एक मंत्रालय केंन्द्र में बनाया जाना चाहिए। संचार माध्यम के बारे में कई सदस्यों ने कहा है कि पहले से ही लोगों को इसके बारे में सूचना मिलनी चाहिए जिससे लोगों को सुरक्षित स्थानों पर पहुंचाया जा सके। अब सवाल उठता है कि उन्हें कहां पर सुरक्षित पहुंचाया जाए? लाखों लोगों को एक स्थान से हटाकर दूसरे स्थान पर पहुंचाना, यह बहुत कठिन काम है। मगर अब जब इस तरह का चक्रवात आया है तो हमें उसके लिए तैयारी करनी पड़ेगी। इसलिए केन्द्रीय सरकार को भी इस संबंध में राज्य सरकार को भरपूर मदद देनी चाहिए। ऐसी स्थिति न बने कि जैसे कभी-कभी यह बात कही जाती है कि केन्द्र में एक पार्टी की सरकार है और राज्य में दूसरी पार्टी की सरकार है तो मन में एक बात आती है कि कहीं हम लाशों पर किसी तरह की राजनीति तो नहीं कर रहे हैं? यह बात देश की जनता के मन में नहीं आनी चाहिए। उडीसा के मामले में आरोप-प्रत्यारोप हुए हैं, समाचारपत्रों के माध्यम से यह एक नेशनल कैलामटी है। प्रधान मंत्री जी बोल रहे हैं हम इसको नेशनल कैलामटी के रूप में रहे है तो फिर नेशनल कैलामटी की घोषणा करने में उनको क्या कठिनाई है? उनको घोषणा कर देनी चाहिए। वे शुरु से ही बोल रहे हैं कि हम इसे इसी रूप में ले रहे हैं तो नेशनल कैलामटीज की घोषणा करने में क्या कठिनाई हैं? इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से अपील करना चाहूंगा कि उडीसा सरकार को या देश की जनता को ऐसा संदेश जाना चाहिए कि उडीसा में दूसरी सरकार होते हुए भी केन्द्रीय सरकार ने वहां की जनता को मदद पहुंचाने में, सहायता पहुंचाने में किसी तरह की कोताही नहीं की। यह केन्द्रीय सरकार के लिए यश लेने का समय है। मंत्री जी बैठे हुए हैं और कई साल लगेंगे उडीसा को अपनी पूर्व स्थिति में पहुंचने के लिए, पुनः निर्माण के लिए। मैं आशा करता हूं कि केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा उडीसा सरकार को भरपूर सहायता जो कई हजार करोड़ रुपए में है, उसको जरूर देगी।

श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जो बातें कहीं गई हैं, जो वहां की स्थितियां हैं, परिस्थितियां हैं उनके बारे में साथियों ने और विशेषकर उडीसार के साथियों ने प्रकाश डाला है। मैं समझता हूं कि इस संबंध में हम लोगों को तीन खंडो की कार्यवाहियों के ऊपर विचार करना चाहिए। एक तो जो तत्काल आवश्यकता है उसी पूर्ति का इंतजाम हो। दूसरे मध्य खंड के लिए हमको सोचना होगा। पहली आवश्यकता जो तत्काल आवश्यकता है वह तो यह है कि जिन लोगों को भोजन नहीं मिल रहा है, जिनके पास कपड़ा नहीं है, जिनके सिर के ऊपर छत नही है, उनके लिए तत्काल कोई व्यवस्था करें। मध्य खंड के लिए हमको सोचना पड़ेगा कि जो वहां खेती की व्यवस्था चौपट हुई है और जो कारोबार वहां पर ठप्प हुए हैं , उनके लिए हमको क्या करना है,

कितनी मदद वहां पहुंचानी है और खेती के लिए हमें क्या करना है। क्योंकि खेती का मामला इस्लिए बिगड़ गया है कि तमाम जमीन, जिसमें नमक एकत्रित हो गया है वह फौरन ठीक नहीं हो पायेगी। उसके लिए हमें कुछ उपाए करने होंगे और तत्कालीन व्यवस्था के लिए हमें ऎसी व्यवस्था करनी होगी जिससे कि हम समझ सके कि जब इस ढंग की आपदा हमारे ऊपर आए तो उसका हम कैसे सामना करें। यह बात सही हैं कि प्राकृतिक मामले में हम बहुत ज्यादा नहीं कर सकते लेकिन उसके प्रभाव को कम किया जा सकता है तथा उससे बचा जा सकता है। य ए व्यवस्थाएं तो हम कर ही सकते हैं । यह बात सही है है कि ऎसा कभी नहीं हुआ है, इस शताब्दी में तो कभी नहीं हुआ। अगर पहले हुआ हो तो पता नहीं लेकिन इस शताब्दी में ऎसा चक्रवात कभी नहीं आया। चार घंटे तक वह चक्रवात वहां मौजूद रहा। यह बात भी सही है कि हमने उस चक्रवात की भयंकरता को खत्म करने की कोशिश नहीं की और बजाए इसके कि वह भयंकरता कम होती, हमने उसको बढ़ाया। चूंकि वहां पर वनों का बहुत कटाव हुआ है। वनों के कटाव के कारण भी हमें चक्रवात की भयंकरता देखने को मिली और उसका भी एक बहुत बड़ा कारण रहा है। चारों तरफ से वहां पर पेड़ों की कटाई हुई है, बड़े भारी पैमाने पर कटाई हो रही है, जिसका दुष्परिणाम यह हुआ कि चक्रवात की भयंकरता हमारे देशवासियों को , उडीसा के लोगों को झेलनी पडी है। अल्पकालीन व्यवस्था के लिए तात्कालिक व्यवस्था का जो प्रश्न है, उसमें आप यह बताएं है कि सरकार ने इन तीनों बातों का, जिनका मैंने निवेदन किया है, कोई उनका आकलन किया है या नहीं किया है? अभी तक ये बातें सरकार की तरफ से नहीं आई कि आखिर हमें कितनी सहायता तत्काल करने की आवश्यकता है, उसका आकलन क्या है? हमें मध्य खण्ड के लिए काम करने हैं, खेती का काम करना है, मकानों की व्यवस्था करनी है, रहने की व्यवस्था करनी है, कारोबार की व्यवस्था करनी है। उसमें हमारा क्या आकलन है? कितना खर्चा होगा और दीर्घकालीन व्यवस्था के लिए जो हमारी संचार व्यवस्था है, जो ठप्प हो गई, जैसा बैरागी जी ने अभी बताया कि हमारा इनसेट ई -2 था, जो बिल्कुल फेल हो गया, जो तत्काल छोड़ा गया था और पुराने पर हमने विश्वास नहीं किया और यहां तक हमारी संचार व्यवस्था ठप्प हो गई कि हिंदुस्तान के मौसम विभाग को जो जानकारी थी, उस जानकारी को भी हम भुवनेश्वर तक भी नहीं पहुंचा सके । अमरीका की नौसेना ने जो चार दिन पहले चेतावनी दी थी उसे भी हम नहीं सुन सके। यह बातें हमें दीर्घकालीन व्यवस्था के लिए सोचनी चाहिए और यह भी सोचना चाहिए कि जो इस प्रकार के चक्रवात आते हैं, उनकी भयंकरता को हम कैसे कम कर सकते हैं। वनों के विकास के जरिये से भी उस पर विचार करना चाहिए। लेकिन इन तीनों बातों का कोई आकलन अभी तक सरकार की तरफ से नहीं आया है। तात्कालिक व्यवस्था के लिए

हमें हरेक को रोटी पहुंचानी है चाह एन.जी.ओ. के जरिये से, उडीसा की सरकार के जरिये से, इस देश की सरकार के जरिये से, केन्द्रीय सरकार की तरफ से ये सारी चीजें होनी चाहिए। लेकिन मध्य खण्ड भी बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है औड़ दीर्घकालीन व्यवस्था भी बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। इन तीनों का आकलन सरकार की तरफ से आना चाहिए। एक बड़ा भारी प्रश्न यहां उठा है कि सरकार क्यों नहीं इसे राष्ट्रीय आपदा घोषित कर देती ? प्रधानमंत्री कह रहे हैं, सरकार कह रही है कि हम इसे ऐसे ट्रीट कर रहे हैं, ऐसे ले रहे हैं जैसे राष्ट्रीय आपदा है। लोगों को परेशानी है तो राष्ट्रीय आपदा घोषित होने से कुछ केंद्रीय सरकार की जिम्मेदारी बढ़ेगी, इसमें कोई संदेह नहीं है, कुछ राहत कोष भी खाली होगा लेकिन जैसी वहां की आवश्यकता और तकलीफ है उसे देखते हुए राष्ट्रीय आपदा तत्काल घोषित होनी चाहिए और मैं यह निवेदन करूंगा श्री जार्ज फर्नाडींस और श्री नीतिश जी भी यहां बैंठे हैं, इसे आज ही राष्ट्रीय आपदा घोषित कर दें और वहां के लिए जो सरकार का आकलन है उसे लेकर आएं ताकि सभी लोग पूरे हिंदुस्तान के लोग उस आकलन को पूरा करने में जो भी आवश्यकता हो, उसे कर सकें। श्रीमान् इन्हीं बातों के साथ मैं अपनी बात खत्म करता हूं।

SHRI N.R. DASARI (Andhra Pradesh) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the cause of Orissa which is crying for help. October 29, 1999 was the bloody Friday in the history of our country. It is an irony that when the Rajya Sabha was discussing about the cyclone in Ganjam district of Orissa and some parts of Bengal, on that day itself, the super cyclone swept coastal Orissa. The cyclonic winds blowing with a velocity of 300 km p/h with the epic centre Paradip, and the tidal waves rising to a fantastic height of 30 feet and spreading over an area of 15 km depth completely washed out all the villages. And the loss of human life is unimaginable. According to some unofficial estimates, the death-toll would be more than 30,000. And the number of people affected would be about one-and-a-half-crore. The houses razed to the ground, or, partially damaged- whose roofs have been blown up-would be about 25 lakhs. The estimates may vary, but the destruction has been unprecedented in the history of independent India, on which there is no difference of opinion. Forty lakh acres of land having standing crops have been submerged. Most of the land has to be desalinated for making fit for rabi crop. The Ganjam district has been affected twice by two cyclones in the same month of October. Sir, imagine the plight of the people in that district where 350 people died. It looked as if there was a race of deaths in the cyclone affected districts of Orissa, and the Paradeep area in Jagatsinghpur

district topped the list with about 8000 deaths. Nothing remained in Paradeep except R.C.C. buildings in water. In fact, I had been there. I reached Bhubaneswar on the 1st of November and went round the city which had a reputation of one of the most planned and beautiful cities in India. Some parts of the city looked like burial grounds. There was not a single tree which was not uprooted. Of course, the slums were the worst hit where all the inhabitants are living on roads only. In this context, I would like to compliment the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh who came forward to send food and cloth on the 1st of November itseif. Then a team of Andhra Pradesh police also helped in the relief work. It was followed by some other States. I would like to compliment them once again. 1 saw a ghastly picture in Orissa when I toured the coastal line from Jagatsinghpur down to Ganjam district for three days, i.e. 1st, 2nd and 3rd of November accompanied by our State Secretary Shri Abahini Boral. This is really a national calamity. Again in the second week of November the General Secretary of CPI, Shri A.B. Bardhan, toured all the affected districts of Orissa. There is a lot of controversy going on whether it should be defined as a national calamity or it looks like a national calamity. If this is not a national calamity, then what else is a national calamity? The Central Government has failed to realize the reality. Perhaps this is the first time we witnessed such a war like devastation of gigantic proportions. It is a war waged on Orissa by nature which has affected one and a half crore people. If the Government do not recognize this unprecedented devastation as a national calamity, it will be abjuring the very code. In this connection, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House and the concerned Ministry one ghastly inhuman deed of Oswal Fertilizers company in Paradeep which I actually saw. Thousands of NMRs are working for the construction of this monopoly company. Nearly 1000 dead bodies were carried to the shores of Paradeep in trucks and thrown in the sea. We found rows of dead bodies on the 2nd of November when the sea water receded. The inhabitants of Paradeep saw this and informed our delegation. Has the company got any responsibility or not towards those labourers who died in the campus in the course of the construction of this company?

The coastal States of Bay of Bengal are more cyclone-prone in the world. In 1984, the National Cyclone Review Committee submitted a very useful report to the Government listing out short-term and long-term measures to minimize the loss to human life and property. Sir, there have been nearly 150 cyclones between 1971 and 1977. If we add the number of cyclones

which occurred in the later period then the number will be more than 200 in this coastal region. May I ask: What steps were taken by the Governments in the Centre and the State to implement the measures recommended by the National Cyclone Review Committee? The Committee suggested a full-fledged cyclone code. I would like to highlight one important, absolutely indispensable measure suggested by this Committee, and that is the construction of cyclone shelters in cyclone-prone areas; that there should be two-storeyed buildings each to accommodate 500 to 1,000 people, and that this should be done in every village or a group of villages having a population of 1,000 to 2,000. But, in Orissa, I am surprised to learn from some newspapers that there are only 23 cyclone shelters in the entire Coast. It is this callousness of Governments, both at the Centre and the State, which has cost several thousands of human lives.

Coming to the point of national calamity, I would like to ask: What is the sanctity of this National Calamity Code if it comes in the way of the Centre helping Orissa in a much bigger way? Is it a divine made? I would like to submit that in a grave situation which we are facing in Orissa...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): Mr. Dasari, kindly conclude.

SHRI N.R. DASARI : Kindly give me five minutes more. I had gone there and seen the reality. There should be relaxation of rules, and the Central Government should come forward more generously to help Orissa. It should give grants under different heads to the extent of Rs.2,000 crores for immediate rehabilitation. Of course, even this amount would not suffice as the State requires Rs. 10,000 crores, according to some estimate. So, the Government should make the resources available through HUDCO, Indira Awas Yojana, LIC, GIC, etc. in order to rescue the people of Orissa. I would like to suggest and insist that the Central Government should appoint a statutory body like the East-Coast Cyclone Relief Committee in view of frequent cyclones in the States of the Eastern Coast. Also, if it is declared as a national calamity, more help from international agencies would be possible. So, special consideration should be given for the poor Orissa crying for help by all means and from all quarters. Let all of us rise to help Orissa. Who lives when Orissa dies? Thank you very much, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): Shri Viduthalai Virumbi. You have six minutes. Once again I request all the hon.

Members not to repeat the points. Just share the anxiety. Repetition may not help.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I will try my best to follow your advice. It is an irony that this tragedy has happened in this decade when the UNO has declared this decade as the International Decade for National Disaster Reduction. The coil of the snake is called the cyclone in Greek. This has been justified by what we have witnessed in the last fortnight. What we are discussing here is the occurrence of successive cyclones within a fortnight. The U.N.O. has passed a Resolution regarding this issue. It says:"The General Assembly has, in a Resolution, declared that the goal is to protect the people and property from the worst effects of natural hazards through wider application of existing scientific technology and technical knowledge." This is the Resolution passed by the UNO. But, what is the reality? The devastation is unprecedented. About a quarter of a century ago, in 1971, also, the people of Orissa were affected badly. At that time it was called 'severe cyclone'. This one has superseded that. It has been called a 'super cyclone' now. Thousands of people have died. Crops have been completely destroyed. Cattle have died. People have lost houses, school buildings and many of them have been dispossessed. This is the situation. May be, it is an effect of the Nino. But I fail to understand. We feel that scientific development in this area of preservation of human life and property is inadequate. It has been proved now.

So far as this particular cyclone is concerned, I have to point out that on October 26, 1999, the Director of the Meteorological Centre informed the Chief Secretary of Orissa that a cyclone had formed 300 kms. North-east of Port Blair. The next day, on the 27th, the Director again informed the Orissa Government that the cyclonic storm that had formed yesterday had been further strengthened and that it was moving towards the north-west. After he had given the information, he had actually alerted the State Government and warned the State Government. But I do not want to accuse the State Government or the Central Government. What 1 want to point out is that after the cyclone had occurred, the Revenue Secretary of the Orissa Government was reported to have explained and told the Press, "Nobody told us about the magnitude and the exact direction of the cyclone". The Director said that he had informed about the cyclone. But the Revenue Secretary said that they did not inform about the magnitude and the direction of the storm. Not only that, he stated further that nobody had anticipated that it would be a super cyclone.

From this what we can infer is that either the information provided by the Director of the Meteorological Centre was not sufficient for the State Government to alert its people or the information received by the Director from his own sources was inadequate for him to inform the State Government. It shows that the scientific knowledge has not been developed to the extent it ought to have been developed. That is one point.

Now, 1 come to the second point. What was the response to this situation? The response has come from throughout the country. After Kargil, I fee! this is the occasion where people have stood one nation. The Central Government has sent teams, the Minister of Health has visited the State, the Prime Minister has visited the State and they have also helped the State Government by way of loans, grants and subsidies. They have helped in other ways also like supply of rice, medicines, etc. The Pope has offered some three hundred thousand dollars. UNO has come forward to help the people of Orissa. HUDCO has come forward to construct some 75,000 houses for the people. But the question is whether all this is enough and is going to solve the problem or not. 1 feel that a National Disaster Management system is yet to be developed in India. That is the lesson that we have leamt from Orissa. This has yet to be developed. It is not only this disaster that has taken place in Orissa, but in future also Orissa is going to be affected. I think it has not been dealt with by other hon. Members.

ONE HON. MEMBER :Are you cursing?

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: No, I am not cursing. This is the information from the scientific departments. What they say is that saline water's inundation of coastal areas renders these coastal areas incapable of growing any crops. This is the situation. In such situations, sometimes the anti-social elements also play their part. Sometimes, some sort of information like leakage of ammonia taking place from the Paradip Phosphate Plant is spread. It has not happened. But rumours have been spread throughout Orissa to create panic among the people there. They want to fish in troubled waters. As far as providing help to the Orissa State is concerned, it has come from all over the country. For example, Andhra has done it. Sir, I remember, one Shri A.P. Patro was a Minister in the composite Madras Province ~ maybe Naveen Patnaik is not aware of it ~ at that time, there was a very good link between the people of Orissa and Tamil Nadu. Sir, not only the people of Tamil Nadu, but also all the political parties of Tamil Nadu and the Government of Tamil Nadu have come forward to help the people of Orissa.

From our side, we have done whatever we could do. Tamil Nadu has given medical aid, food, clothes and other things for the people of Orissa. Sir, what I feel is that there is a system failure in this. The failure does not lie either with the State Government or with the Central Government. We have To find out where the system failure is. If such a calamity occurs again in any part of India, particularly the eastern part of our country, namely, West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, then what should be done? This whole area is a cyclone-prone area. Therefore, we must find out how to prevent it. This is the main point. Whatever has happened, happened. We are providing all the help to the affected people. Here, I don't want to mix politics with this issue.

Sir, recently, I have collected some poems of one Pamela Patlipose. I am reminded of that poetry written by an Andhra boy. It has been translated into English. It says, "What can be done when the elements that sustain life - air and water - turn to destroy it." This is what has happened in Orissa. We, as one people, face that challenge. We will extend every help to them.

Sir, the State of Andhra Pradesh was also hit by a cyclone. The State of Tamil Nadu has also suffered. More than eight districts of Tamil Nadu ha\e suffered due to torrential rains. This should also be looked into by the Central Government. We have seen that the National Calamity Fund is not adequate to help the people at the time of natural calamities. I request that the system failure should be corrected at the earliest. With these words, I conclude

SHRI R. MARGABANDU (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, cyclone arid drought occur in one part of India or the other every year. Almost every year, we discuss the effects of cyclone and drought, and the measures to be adopted by the Central and the State Governments to prevent them. But, still it is a continuing process. We have not thought of a proper and effective preventive measure to tackle these natural calamities. Although cyclone prone areas have already been identified, nothing has been thought of to prevent it. Of course, it is not possible to fight against nature. But within human power, something can be thought of to prevent the recurrence of cyclone and other things. These calamities often occur some particular areas.

Sir, 1 agree with Shri Virumbi when he said that we should make effective use of the meteorological devices. I request that these devices should be made effective to caution the people in advance so that they are able to move to safer places. The Government is providing every possible

help only after the loss of life and property. I request that we should do something so that these calamities do not occur. Some scientific system should be evolved to see that all the people in those areas are informed about these calamities well in advance so that they can move to safer places. Now, Sir, it has been said that nearly half of the entire Orissa has been devastated. Luckily, relief is pouring in from every State. But it is a sad state of affairs that even though the relief materials are sent over there, they are not distributed; they are not given to the affected persons; they did not reach the needy persons. As a consequence, they are suffering, starving and dying. For a day, if one meal is given, one can satisfy himself and he can save himself. What would happen if it is repeated for marty days, as some reports say? I can starve but I can't pacify my starving daughter. That is reported. This is the kind of a situation for the past one month. Even now, several areas have been cut off and there is nobody to reach those places. Ther** is nobody to provide food.

In Tamil, there was a poet called Avvayyar. She said, oru nal unavai ozhienral ozhiyai. The stomach will not allow you to be in peace even for a day and it will not allow you to take food more than the quantity required for a day. Idumbaigoor en vayire unnodu vazhdal aridu. That is the stomach. It will not take more than the quantity required even for a day and it will not starve for a day. That is the position.

For the past one month, the people of that area are suffering like that. People from other States have come forward to help. Here, my suggestion is, if it were a vast devastated area, then each State should adopt a particular area to improve and to redeem that particular area. If a particular area is assigned to Andhra Pradesh, or, if a particular area is assigned to Tamil Nadu, then those can immediately rush to the adopted places and see that the developmental and rescue measures are taken up there. But, here, although rice has been sent, sarees have been sent and dhoties have been sent, they were not distributed. Thirteen thousand tonnes of food remain undelivered. Sixty thousand sarees and dhoties remain undistributed. Rs.52 crores of emergency fund remain unspent. This is the situation and we should see to it that tnese relief measures are given to the needy persons.

As a matter of fact, on behalf of the AIADMK party, Rs.5 lakhs towards relief have been given. The people are willing to give and they are giving, but it is not properly distributed. There are instances reported that there were theft and stealing. There should be a proper mechanism so that it is distributed to

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the persons in time. With timely help, lives have to be saved. So, the Government should come forward. Towards this national calamity, the Central Government has allotted Rs.300 crores and mat needs to be increased to see that the people are rehabilitated and are saved. With these words, I end my speech.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): Now, Mr. Kuldip Nayar, you have three minutes, Sir.

SHRI KULDIP NAYAR (Nominated): It is very difficult to speak anything in three minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIROKAR) : I agree with you. The person who is in the Chair now was not able to speak within that, who also had only three minutes.

SHRI KULDIP NAYAR : Natural calamities are hard to avert. In Orissa, it was a man-made ordeal also. It is no more a secret that the State machinery was sluggish and it was almost criminal. It is also no more a secret, the person who is the Chief Secretary of the State went to America on leave. And this Government allowed him. How, I do not know! It is also a fact that many Collectors who were on leave did not come back to join their duti ;s. Neither conscience nor a sense of duty called them back. So, it is not only a natural calamity but it is also a tragedy of our people wherever we are. It seems that we do not rise to the occasion and we are divided and busy in our own problems and politics. Now the warning was given in 1971. And men there were two very powerful Chief Ministers, Biju Patnaik and Janaki Ballabh Patnaik. Now what did they do from 1971 till this cyclone again hit us? Biju was a good friend of mine. So I do not want to say anything about him. But the fact is that nothing was done, nothing has been done to meet this calamity. What happened is that greedy politicians, contractors and bureaucrats have really looted the treasury. There is nothing which could have been spent on the real work to avoid this kind of a tragedy. I do not want to take more time because you have given me only three minutes. But I would make a few suggestions, if I am permitted. One thing is that now there is going to be a problem concerning the school children. I think more and more primary schools should be opened so that we can take care of these small children. The second thing is that, I think, what Mr. George Fernandes suggested, there should be a Central body. The States do not have a..

money. They do not have any funds for calamities. They do not have funds even to give salary to their teachers. So, there should be a Ministry to take care of die natural disasters. Maybe, that would also help it all. In die end, I would just like to read two or diree sentences which I wrote. Orissa tragedy should have shaken us; it has not. The tragedy should have awakened us to die privations of most people all over India; how mey live on die periphery of poverty and how die 52-year old Independence made little difference to their condition. They still have no regular income, no firm shelter, nothing to fall back upon. Their children have no school to go to; die old wait for deadi helplessly. They shudder to fall ill because mey have no means to afford medicines nor can diey remain idle for a single day. Sir, even a small flood, much jess tiian a cyclone, destroys die meagre existence. And then they get so engrossed in finding food, shelter or work for themselves that they have no time to bury their dead or cremate their dead. They cannot even look for their lost relations, their neighbours or village men. This is what happened in Orissa. Sir, only this morning a person from Orissa came to me and said that till today he has not been able to go to the village where his in-laws live. That means till today maybe, certain areas are inaccessible - people cannot reach by road, because they have been washed away and there is no way to reach. I hope die Centre is doing something about it. I hope George Fernandes will do something for die long-term purposes. I do hope that this thing does not get involved in politics because, Sir, dismissal of a Chief Minister or removal of a Chief Minister does not really help. It is really die bureaucracy which is responsible; it is really die government machinery which is not mere. I am very much afraid, I always thought that we always blunder along. When I saw failure in Orissa, maybe, another tragedy anywhere else will find us very much wanting. Thank you.

SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK (Orissa) : Hon. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to associate myself with the discussion on "super-cyclone." I do not find it is necessary for me to repeat as to what has happened. But I must certainly give some suggestions as to what can be done. This "super-cyclone" has devastated our economy, broken our backbone and forced the State twenty years backwards. The financial position of our State is such that we cannot afford to rebuild by ourselves. And I do not think that my country will march ahead, leaving a crippled State like Orissa to fall behind. You people have helped us in many ways. The State got help from all corners of the country. All people have expressed their sympadiy. We are thankful to them. Sir, you

have cautioned me that I should not discuss the points that have already been discussed by other hon. Members.

My first point is, building confidence in the people. Sir, people there are not confident. They do not want to do their own job. They are saying, "Why should we construct our houses, if cyclone is going to hit us again on 15th December? Such a report has been circulated. I think it is a gossip. J urge upon all the political parties and my colleagues to have a Joint Parliamentary Committee to visit that area, and we must politically make the people ready in taking up developmental work and in building their own houses. I urge upon the Government that the roads should be reconstructed immediately and all the villages should be made approachable, schools should be rebuilt and children should go to their schools. Land, which has been sand-castled, must be made ready for taking up Rabi cultivation. The poor people, who had taken loan for the Kharif crop, should be given waiver. They should be provided soft loans for building houses.

Another thing is, the transmission of energy is totally shattered and damaged to such a magnitude that our GRIDCO, which is responsible for this, cannot take up this job unless it is given some financial assistance. Unless energy is transmitted to the village-level, we cannot go for Rabi cultivation; lift irrigation cannot function and hullers cannot function. That is the reason why I request the Government to see that the energy transmission system is restored. Our peak load is about 1,750 MW but it has come down just to 700 MW. So, if we do not use energy, which is a measuring rod of development, we cannot develop. We are falling back again. You must help in that are

Another point is, if you arrange the trees, that have been uprooted, in a systematic way that will, probably, cover about 10,000 Sq. Kms. of jungle. In L947, we had 32,000 sq. kilometres of jungle. Now, in the name of development, we have consumed almost 12,000 sq. kilometres of jungle for coal, for BALCO, for NALCO, for Rourkela development and for mining activities. We have spoiled our jungle. No doubt, it has provided some employment. But we have consumed almost 12,000 sq. Kms. of jungle. So, we need to take up new plantation with utmost speed. Most of Koraput has been eroded because of the devastation of jungles. The topsoil has been washed away into the sea. I am not selfish enough to suggest something about Orissa alone. We are covering 1600 Kms. of coastal line. We need to take up plantation and have a forest of two kilometre thickness, which can

give at least a cool atmosphere. It is reported that global temperature is much higher than what it should be and the climate has been distorted due to that and the snow is melting as it normally melts in the polar regions. In that way, the level of the sea water is increasing. It will eat away our land. It is increasing by two centimetres every year. So, you must prevent unnecessary heat that is created by the industry. Most of us, in the States, are preferring to have thermal plants for generation of energy. Though it is said that hydro-electricity is bio-friendly, yet we have not been going in for that. We are going in for thermal electricity because it is cheap. But we must also think in terms of the devastation that can take place. So, this is what I propose, and I think the Central Government would react to it. I again say on behalf of the poor people of Orissa, while remembering the poem written by the great Rabindra Nath Tagcre in Bengali which means:

We have nothing to give to any body

We have lost everything but

We have lot of love in our heart to distribute it amongst the humanity.

I again repeat that Orissa will be prosperous again within a few years from today. In the next ten years we will prove ourselves.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): Thank you, Mr. Barik. You have made a valid point. You were talking about the forest cover India needs 32 per cent of forest cover. We have, only in one State, a maximum of 22 per cent forest cover. We require mangroves along the canals. But we do not have it. That is causing the El Nino effect and also the green house effect. Thank you, Mr. Barik, for pointing it out. Now, Mr. Balwinder Singh. You have only three minutes.

सरकार बलविन्दर सिंह भुंडर (**पंजाब**): आदरणीय चेयरमैन साहब, वह दिन उडीसा के इतिहास में ही नहीं बल्कि देश के इतिहास में बहुत काला दिन था जब उडीसा में इस सदी का सबसे भयानक तूफान आया। हम यह कह सकते हैं कि साइंस ने बहुत तरक्की की है, चांद तक पहुंच गए, मंगल तक पहुंच गए और इससे आगे जाने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं लेकिन अभी कुदरत के सामने हम बौने हैं। कुदरत की इतनी बडी तबाही हुई है जिसका हमारा सांइस अंदाजा नहीं लगा सका। पहले वह बता ही नहीं सका कि इतना बड़ा तूफान आने वाला है। यही वजह है कि देश में ही नहीं , पिछले सौ साल में दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा तबाही क वह दिन था। इसमें दो करोड़ के करीब लोग इसकी

चपेट में आए और 15 हजार के करीब लोग मौत के मुंह में चले गए। वहां पर जानवर, फसल, घर, सड़क, बिजली सब कुछ तबाह हुआ है। इसके बारे में कहने की बात नहीं है। अब हम इस बारे में किसी पर ब्लेम लगाए यह बात ठीक नहीं है। बात यह है कि देश गरीब है और हिन्दुस्तान की गवर्नमेंट कोशिश कर रही है। हम सरकार से कहेंगे कि वह और ज्यादा कोशिश करे। जो कुछ उसने किया है उडीसा के लिए वह कम है। स्टेट इतनी बडी आफत का अकेले पार नहीं पा सकती। इसलिए हमें चाहिए कि जैसे देश के सामने कारगिल इश्यु था, इसी तरह से उडीसा इश्यु नेक्स्ट बन गया है। आन्ध्रा वालों ने काबिले तारीफ उडीसा की मदद की है। हमारी पंजाब छोटी स्टेट है और इकॉनामिक क्राइसिस में भी है, फिर भी हमारे सी.एम. ने 400 ट्रक फूडग्रेन का वहां पर भेजा है। अब टू ट्रेन्स, फुल लोडेड जिसमें कम्बल वगैरह हैं या गर्म कपड़े हैं वे भेजे हैं। हम उडीसा के लोगों की और भी मदद करने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं। मैं इस समय पूरे हाउस के साथ मिलकर इस तबाही के लिए- जो देश की आर्थिक हालत हैं उसके बारे में हम सब को पता है। इसलिए मैं इतना ही कहना के चाहता हूं कि हमें सटेट गवर्नमेंट को या सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट को कोई बात बार-बार कहने के बजाय लोगों को कहना चाहिए कि उनसे जितनी भी मदद हो सके उडीसा के लोगों की करनी चाहिए। इस देश की आबादी 100 करोड़ है। इसमें से 50 करोड़ लोग तो पहले से ही गरीब है, 25 करोड़ लोग गरीबी के नजदीक हैं और 25 करोड़ लोग हैं जो अच्छी रोटी खाते हैं। इसलिए मैं यह सलाह देना चाहूंगा कि जो लोग गुरूदारे में जाते हैं, मंदिरों में जाते हैं, मस्जिदों में जाते हैं और वहां जाकर श्रद्वा प्रकट करते हैं- जो परमात्मा की सही श्रद्वा करते है वह यह है कि जिसको परमात्मा ने अच्छी रोटी दी है वह अपने घर से 100 रुपये एक महीने का भी निकाले, तो अगर 25 करोड़ लोग ऐसा करेंगे और एक साल तक भी यह करते जाएंगे तो काफी मदद हो सकेगी। उडीसा में इतनी तबाही हुई है कि वह अगले 15-20 साल तक भी अपने पैरों पर खड़ा नहीं हो सकता है और इसका बोझा अकेले सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट भी नहीं सह सकती है, जैसी उसकी आर्थिक हालत दिख रही है, इसको देश के लोग ही चुक सकते हैं। इसलिए हम जो सोना पहनते हैं, शादी-ब्याह में खर्च करते हैं, कारों में फालतू खर्च करते हैं, हम ऐसा न करके उस पैसे से उडीसा के लोगों की मदद कर सकते हैं। हम लोग यह विचार करें कि इस देश में आफत आई है और हम अपने घर से थोड़ा सा निकालकर उन लोगों की मदद करें तो यह सबसे बड़ा गुरुद्वारा है, सबसे बड़ा मंदिर है और सबसे बडी यह परमात्मा के प्रति श्रद्वा है। हम लोगों ने , पंजाब के लोगों ने छोटी-सी स्टेट होने के नाते बहुत बडी मदद की है, इसके बारे में प्रेस में उतना नहीं आया है। हम जब भी किसी ब्याह-शादी में जात हैं तो हम लोगों को सलाह देते हैं कि आपके घरों में कम्बल फाल

पड़े होंगे, आप वह कम्बल निकाल दो, किसी के घर में सूट फालतू हो तो वह उसको निकाल दे, कहीं किसी के पास पुराने कपड़े हों तो वह उन कपड़ों हों तो वह उन कपड़ो को ही भेजे, अनाज भी भेजे। सबसे जरूरी बात है उनकी देखभाल करना। जब हम उडीसा की तबाही देखते हैं तो एक डरावना सपना लगता है। इसलिए हम सब लोगों से अपील करते हैं कि अगर आप परमात्मा को मानते हैं तो अपने घरों से कुछ न कुछ निकाल कर उनकी मदद करें। सारे देश के लोग उनकी मदद करें तो मेरा ख्याल है कि इसको हम और आप मिलकर दूर कर सकते हैं। इसके बारे में अगर कोई भी सुझाव दिया जाए, तो वह सुझाव मददगार हो सकता है। यह आने वाले समय के लिए जरूरी है । हमारे जो कॉस्टल स्टेट्स हैं, वे साइक्लोन प्रोन हैं, वहां हमें साइंस का अच्छा सिस्टम कायम करना चाहिए जिससे कि आगे कोई ऐसी आफत न आए और उसके पहले ही पूरा इंतजाम हो जाए। आगे के लिए तो हम ऐसा सोच सकते हैं लेकिन आज तो हम सबको मिलकर उनकी मदद करने के लिए आगे आना चाहिए, तभी हम इस आफत को पार कर सकेंगे। यह सारे देश की आफत है, हम सब उडीसा वालों के साथ हैं । जो हम पंजाब वाले कर सकते हैं वह हम कर रहे लफ्जों के साथ हम आपका धन्यवाद करते हैं।

कुमारी फ्रिडा टोपनो (**उडीसा**): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आज उडीसा के सुपर साईक्लोन के बारे में कुछ कहना चाहती हूं। कई माननीय सदस्य इस बारे में बोल चुके हैं कि वहां के लोग किस तरह से इफेक्टेड हुए उसकी सब डिटेल माननीय सदस्य दे चुके हैं इसलिए मैं इस विषय में ज्यादा नहीं बोलना चाहती हूं। मैं यह कहना चाहती हूं कि वहां पर 11 डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स और 71 ब्लॉक्स के लोग ज्याद इफेक्टेड हुए हैं। पूरी स्टेट की लगभग 50 परसेंत पॉपुलेशन यानी दो करोड़ लोग इसमें इफेक्टिड हैं। इनमें से कुछ तो मर गये हैं और कुछ तबाह हो गए है । पच्चीस लाख पशु समुद्र में बह गए हैं। इतनी भारी संख्या में वहां पर लोग इफेक्टेड हैं तो उनके रिहेबिलिटेशन के लिए, इमिडीएटली उनको खाना देने के लिए, बहुत जल्द मदद देनी चाहिए।

मैं अपनी ओर से कुछ रिक्वेस्ट करना चाहती हूं कि वहां पर जो इतना बड़ा इंसीडेंट हुआ है और जिसमें इतने सारे लोग मर गए हैं या इफेक्टेड हुए हैं, इस देश का यह सबसे बड़ा सुपर साइक्लोन है। इसलिए इसको नेशनल कैलामटी डिक्लेर किया जाए ताकि वहां के लिए सफिशियन्ट फंड मिल सके। जिससे उनके रिहेबिलिटेशन के लिए, घर248

बनाने के लिए एक साल तक खर्चे की व्यवस्था हो सके। वहां के लोगों को रहने के लिए पहले टेम्परेरी और बाद में परमानेंट घर बनाने हैं । यदि इसको नेशनल कैलामटी घोषित कर देंगे तो वहां के लोग अपने लिए आवश्यकत सुविधाओं का अरेंजमेंट कर सकेंगे। यही मेरी सैन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट से रिक्वेस्ट है। अब सर्दी के दिन आ गये हैं। लोगों के पास सर्दी से बचने के लिए कपड़े नहीं है। इसलिए इमिडिएटली सभी लोगों के ले ब्लेंकेट्स दिये जाने चाहिए। उनको शेड्स बनाने के लिए भी छत के ऊपर डालने के लिए पॉलिथीन उपलब्ध नहीं है। अतः तत्काल उनके लिए सफिशियन्ट पॉलिथीन उपलब्ध कराये जाने चाहिए। उनके भविष्य के लिए भी क्रॉप इन्श्योरेंस करना चाहिए। उनके खाद्य के जो पैडी इत्यादि है उसके स्टोरेज के लिए भी पैडी-बीन देनी चाहिए ताकि उसमें रखकर भविष्य में पैडी उनके काम आ सके। सेफ ड्रिंकिंग़ वाटर के लिए भी इमिडिएटली एक्शन लेना चाहिए । अभी भी वे लोग अच्छा पानी नहीं पी रहे हैं। जिस पानी में डेड- बॉडीज पडी हुइ हैं उसको ही वहां पर पीने के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जा रहा है। इसलिए मेरा सुझाव है कि सेफ ड्रिंकिंग वाटर के लिए टयूबवैल्स लगाये जाने चाहिएं। जो लैंड सेलाइन वाटर से कवर्ड है, उस पर तीन साल तक खेती नहीं हो सकती है इसलिए साइंटिफिक मेथेड को तैयार किया जाए जिससे जमीन का कल्टीवेशन हो सकें। कहने के लिए पाइंट्स तो बहुत हैं लेकिन तीन मिनट आपने बोलने के लिए दिए हैं इसलिए ज्यादा कहने के लिए टाइम भी नहीं है। उपसभापति महोदया जी बोल रही थीं कि थोड़ा एक्सटेंड करके ज्यादा टाइम देना चाहिए। आपने कम समय दिया इसका दुःख है किंतु बोलने के लिए समय दिया है, इसके लिए बहुत-बहुत आभारी हूं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR) : Shri Prafull Goradia. You also have three minutes' time to speak.

SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA (Gujarat) : Please ring the bell if I repeat any point that has been made by any other Member. Otherwise do not go by time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): If you do not repeat the points, I will keep quiet.

SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: If I repeat, you please ring the bell. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I visited Orissa from 22nd of November onwards. From Bhubaneswar, I went to Cuttack. Then I went on towards Paradeep via a number of villages that had been very badly affected in Ersama block, of the Jagatsinghpur district. The worst experience was when I met in a village called Jireilo in Ersama block a man, who must be about 40 years old. His

name was Sudhama. As I said Namaskar to him, for the next five minutes he could not stop weeping. It was because his 18-Member family had run away from the flood. Between 18 of them, they had climbed two trees in the village hoping that within three hours the flood water would recede and they would come down. The flood did not recede for 72 hours. As a result they got thirsty, hungry and tired. Ten of the 18 people fell into the flood. Sudhama and the rest of them were watching. This is the kind of heart-rendering tragedy that had overtaken the area. It is not that you do not know. Then there was Chandramaqni in Sarva village, who had lost all his four cows and has not got a piece of land. So, that is the end of his livelihood. As soon as the relief work stops, he does not know wherefrom his five-member family will eat. Then there was a village called Sarvapatto, which was entirely a Bengali-speaking village. 242 villagers of the 463-member village were washed away by the tidal wave. It is about 15 kilometres from the sea. Only 221 members are surviving now. It is not as if the families are individually surviving. It is a criss-cross manner in which the people have been lost. Brother is dead and Bhabi is alive and all that kind of a thing.

I am proud in this terrible context, die Chief Minister of Gujarat, Keshubhai Patel, reacted quickly and sent his Health Minister, Ashok Bhatt, with a bank draft for Rs.2/- crores in favour of the Orissa Government and 32 lakh clorine tablets, which were readily available in Ahmedabad. He carried them with himself personally. He also promised three trains of aid, including milk powder so that the children are not left out while the dry Chura is being distributed to others.

Then he went on to assure the Chief Minister, Mr. Gomango that he should not think that the calamity was only Orissa's. The burden of coming out of the calamity is the responsibility of every Indian. Having said that, he said: "Please, distribute your districts to each State so that the whole responsibility does not fall on the Bhubaneswar Government alone." It is not possible to deal with this calamity just by one Chief Minister, one Chief Secretary etc. This was the Health Minister's advice to Mr. Gomango, who said he was very grateful to him for that suggestion. The next day he offered districts for other States to adopt. Nine districts were adopted by various State .Governments. One district went to Andhra Pradesh because of the great help rendered by that State to die Orissa Government. That was the only non-Congress Government mat got the honour of adopting a district. The Government of Gujarat which suggested the idea has, unfortunately, been

scrupulously left out. I do not know why. Mr. Vice-Chairman, do you realise that Baleshwar, one of the worst districts, was handed over, for adoption, to the State of Arunachal Pradesh, a very fine beautiful State? But I do not know how much machinery they have, what financial resources they have, to look after one of the worst affected districts, Baleshwar.

Then, Mayurbhanj was handed over to another beautiful tiny State, Nagaland, while Gujarat was left out. However, these things will go on. Human nature is difficult to change. Inter-party politics carry on even in the face of tragedy, even in the face of dead bodies. But intra-party conflict was the worse of the two evils which took place. The worst incidenMhat came into the open was on the 22nd November, in the Congress Bhavan, when one faction shouted slogans like " J.B. Patnaik zindabad, Hemanand Biswal murdabad", until Mr. Scindia and Mr. Wasnik tried to calm down the agitators. Of course, it was headlined in the press. I am quoting from the New Indian Express, Bhubaneswar. *(Time-belt)* So far, has there been any repetition? Intra-party rivalry was alleged by two or three bureaucrats whom I met in the State. One of the major reasons this is my view also why the State machinery has come to a standstill which we have already read about and heard - is due to one faction trying to jam the wheels of the other faction. Of course, elections are due in February. So, that is another problem.There were some good suggestions made by Mr. Ranganath Misra, Mr. Kuldip Nayyar and by Mr.Bari. I do not know who is going to implement these suggestions. It is easy to send blankets,but who is going to deliver to the affected people? Already, some of these blankets have reached the markets in Calcutta. When the God is angry and nature is cruel, one would expect that, at least, human beings would unite. There are certain issues which are much bigger than party politics. They are national issues. Then, there are issues which are beyond national issues, which are human issues. The tragedy of Orissa is a human issue and yet, we, human beings, are not acting as good human beings.

Anyway, the other problem which I saw towards the end were carcasses and dead bodies of human beings which had to be removed. . The most revolting task was removing the stinking bodies. Yet, we had the NGOs like Utkal Bipanna Sahayata Samiti sponsored by the RSS. About 8,120 volunteers were on the field, by 1st November. By 17th November, they had cremated 6,120 caracasses and 1,280 human bodies. By wearing masks and bearing the stink, they took out these bodies and cremated them. Of course, another NGO which was very active was the Anand Marg. Then, of course,

there were our brave jawans from the Indian Army who are supposed to defend our borders and not to be doing the job of removing dead bodies. But they did it bravely. One can only salute our jawans. Incidentally, our Air Force made the first sortee that went out in the afternoon of 30th October itself. The cyclone ended in the morning. The sortees began in the afternoon. The people whom I met in the villages -I speak and understand Bengali, I also understand, to some extent, Oriya language - told me that they identified our soldiers with the Kargil heroes. So, we salute them: Once again thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, for giving me the time to speak.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR) : Thank you, Mr. Goradia. Now, Mr. Naresh Yadav. You have three minutes. Your earlier speaker has consumed more time. *

श्री नरेश यादव (**बिहार**): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, 29 अक्टूबर को आए सुपर साइक्लोन में उडीसा का विनाश है नहीं महा-विनाश हुआ और सारा देश इस घडी में उडीसा के लोगों के दुख के साथ है बिहार राज्य की मुख्य मंत्री श्रीमती राबरी देवी ने राज्य के लोगों की ओर से उडीसा के लोगों की इ दुख की घडी मे उन्हें दस करोड़ रुपए और एक करोड़ रुपए की खाने –पीने की सामग्री वहां जाकर लोगों को मुहैया कराई है।

महोदय, मैं आप का ध्यान सिर्फ एक-दो बिंदुओं की ओर ले जाना चाहूंगा। हम उडीसा के साथियों की व्यथा के साथ हैं, उन्होंने जो करुण दृश्य उपस्थित किया है, उस में हम सब उन के साथ हैं। लेकिन बार-बार पता नहीं क्यों भारत सरकार की ओर से, आदरणीय कृषि मंत्री जी की ओर से रिप्लाई आता है, उस में हमेंशा दसवें फाइनेंस कमीशन की बात कही जाती है। महोदय, आज जब कि सारा देश यह मांग कर रहा है कि इस विपदा को राष्ट्रीय विपदा घोषित किया जाय, लेकिन बार-बार माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी और कृषि मंत्री जी के द्वारा दसवें फायनेंस कमीशन के पैरा 9.3 का हवाला दिया जाता है कि "If any region faced a calamity of rare severity, the Centre was expected to take appropriate action as the situation demanded and incur the necessary expenditure. The Commission did not define what constituted a rare severity."

महोदय, मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि हर कमीशन जो स्थापित किया जाता है और जब उस की रिपोर्ट आती है तो उस में कुछ बातें सरकार के विवेक पर छोड़ दी जाती हैं। अब मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकर का विवेक कब जागेगा? महोदय, इस राष्ट्रीय विपदा की घडी में उडीसा में आए सुपर साइक्लोन में जब 10 हजार लोग मर गए , तब भी इस

सरकार का विवेक नहीं जगा है, लाखों मवेशी मर गए तब भी सरकार का विवेक नहीं जगा और लाखों गरीबों की झोंपडियां नष्ट हो गयीं तब भी सरकार का विवेक नहीं जगा है और हवाला दिया जाता है दसवें फाइनेंस कमीशन का । तो आखिर यह सरकार है कि लिए है महोदय, यह पार्लियामेंट सुप्रीम है, रिपोर्ट सुप्रीम नहीं है और अगर इस विपदा की घडी में यह पार्लियामेंट निर्णय नहीं लेगी, इस त्रासदी को राष्ट्रीय विपदा घोषित करने का निर्णय अभी नहीं करेगी तो कब करेगी महोदय, हमारी पार्टि इस बार से संपूर्णत: सहमत है कि इस राष्ट्रीय विपदा में भारत सरकार की ओर से उडीसा की इस त्रासदी को नेशनल कैलामिटी घोषित किया जाय।

महोदय, मैं यहां एक-दो बातों का उल्लेख और करना चाहूंगा । यह बताया जा रहा है कि उडीसा की जमीन खारी हो गयी है। मैं माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी से आग्रह करना चाहूंगा कि वे वहां आई0सी0ए0आर0 की टीम भेजें जोकि वहां की मिट्टी का परीक्षण कर बताए कि उस में कौनसा बीज डाला जाए और वहां कौनसी खेती हो सकती है य आ वहां क्या पैदा करना उचित होगा? अभी वहां के लोगों की और भी समस्याएं है। आज डिजल महंगा होने से खेत की जोताई की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए जिस से किसान खेत में बीज डालकर खेती कर सके । महोदय, मैं एक बात और इनफॉर्मेशन टैक्नोलॉजी के बारे में कहना चाहूंगा कि आखिर हमारी इनफॉर्मेशन टैक्नोलॉजी इतनी कमजोर क्यों है? जब साइक्लोन के बारे में जनता को बताया गया तो उस ने विश्वास क्यों नहीं किया? उन को बार-बार कहने के बाद भी उन्हें यह लगा कि शायद ऎसी विपदा नहीं आएगी। इस बारे में भी ठोस उपाय करन पड़ेगा जिस से उन को मालूल हो कि इनफॉर्मेशन दे रहे हैं तो विपदा आने वाली और उन्हें वहां से सुरक्षित ऊंचे स्थान पर ले जाया जा सके या उन्हें ऎसे खतरों से बचाया जा सके।

महोदय, अंत में मैं दूसरे सदन में हुई इस बात की चर्चा से सहमत हूं और हमारी पार्टी भी इस के लिए तैयार है कि आज इस राष्ट्रीय विपदा की घडी में संसद के दोनों सदन इस बात के लिए तैयार हो कि हम सभी सांसद दस-दस लाख रुपए अपने एम0पी0 लैंड' प्रोग्राम से उडीसा के लोगों की सहायतार्थ दें जिस से कि यह राशि उडीसा के लोगों की सहायतार्थ दें जिस से कि यह राशि उडीसा के विकास कार्यो में लग सके। उडीसा के रोजगार कार्यक्रम और इंदिरा विकास योजना कार्यक्रम व दूसरे विकास कार्यक्रमों पर यह रुपया खर्च किया जा सकें। हमारी पार्टी इस के लिए तैयार है ।

महोदय, आप ने मुझे बोलने का अवसर दिया, बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the difficulty and disadvantage in declaring it as a national calamity....(.,. *.(Interruption)....)..*

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतमः हर वक्त बोलते रहते है, आप हर वक्त बोलते रहते हैं .....(व्यवधान)

श्री नीलोत्पल बसुः जब बोलने की जरूरत पड़ती है तभी बोलते है।

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतमः क्या आप लोगों के पास बोलने के लिए कोई सेंसिबल प्रश्न है ....(व्यवधान)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR) : We had a very dignified debate. Let us not spoil it. (.... *(Interruption)*....s) I appeal to your good sense not to spoil it. If we are dissatisfied....(.... *(Interruption)....* s)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Kindly appeal to the hon. Defence Minister to restrain his language. Non declaration of national calamity of rare se verety.... *(Interruptions)...*

6.00 P.M.

श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीजः उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, यहां बार-बार हमारे ऊपर, सरकार के ऊपर आरोप लगाया हैं ....(व्यवधान) और पच्चीस तारीख को मंत्री महोदय उडीसा की एक विशेष मुलाकात में बोलें हैं कि ....(व्यवधान)

some other house *....(Interruptions)...*

श्री संघ गौतम : आपकी सरकार बनने वाली तो है नहीं।

श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीजः सरकार के ऊपर आरोप लगाया गया है कि ....(व्यवधान) यह हमारे ऊपर आरोप है कि इसको नेशनल केलेमिटी घोषित नहीं कर रहे हैं, यह हमारे ऊपर आरोप है और हम इसका जवाब इस सदन में भी न दें।

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE : You can make this speech in Orissa. You can go there and make speeches there. This is a national calamity of the nation and by not following the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission, injustice has been done to the people of Orissa.

श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीजः उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, टेंथ फाइनेंस कमीशन की रिपोर्ट का यहां पर कई सदस्यों ने जिक्र किया। कई ने पढ़कर सुनाया और कई बिना पढे ही

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR) : Shri C. Ramachandraiah. I would like to inform you that the time allotted to your party has already been exhausted. But some more time is being given. Kindly conclude within three mintues.

SHRI C.RAMACHANDRAIAH (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, you have been very considerate to the speakers because every time you have been informing the hon. Member that he is being given three mintues, but five to six mintues are given to him. I have been observing this and I hope I will not be an exception. Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. The devastation that has been caused to the economy of Orissa or the people of Orissa need not be explained because we have been discussing this issue in this House for the last four hours. This is the worst disaster of this century. The human sufferings were beyond description. Our hearts bleed when we imagine the agonies, the sufferings and loss of lives in that part of the country when the super cyclone has struck Orissa. It may take decades to restore the economy of Orissa which has been totally shattered and the people are without houses, clothes and food. Sir, the funniest part is that even at this juncture, the major political parties have been trying to take advantage of the situation. The need of the hour is to rush to the rescue of the people in the affected areas. Sir, the entire east coast is susceptible to cyclones. We have been experiencing this since centuries and as one of our colleagues has said that this thing never came to the mind of the Government, either this Government or the earlier Governments, that some permanent machinery has to be evolved either to take pre-cyclone precautionary measures or to take post cyclone relief measures. The people of that area Were adequately informed that there was going to be a cyclone.'I do not want to blame any Government. But I have to do it. That is inevitable. Sir, what has been the contribution of the Central Government at this stage? They have sent Rs. 200 crores. Is anybody concerned about the misery of the people? I am sorry to say that the Head of the State was abroad at that time. The Prime Minister had gone to Durban. The senior officers had gone on leave. The senior officers of the Orissa Government were absent. There was no accountability and for forty to forty-eight hours, there was no communication with the Chief Minister of that State. Such a sorry state of affairs was prevailing there. Sir, just by discussing and debating this issue alone this problem will not be solved. This is not the time to say that the Finance Commission has not made any provision to this effect or the Finance Ministry has not made any provision in the Budget to

this effect. One of my colleagues has said that this House is supreme. Let us pass a resolution. Let both the Houses of Parliament irrespective of the parties pass a resolution that we want to extend every possible relief and support to the victims of Orissa. Let us pass a resolution to this effect, and if necessary, let us amend the Constitution. We should have that sense of duty to the people of Orissa. I would suggest that a permanent machinery be set up to tackle a problem of this magnitude. I would like to express my disagreement and unhappiness about the way in which the responsible political parties have behaved. Sir, the Central Government led by the B.J.P, has been saying that the State Government has failed and the State Government has been saying that they are not getting adequate money from the Centre to tackle the situation. But who is to be blamed? The people who arc victims of the fury of nature? And again, we are leaving the people at the mercy of nature only. As civilised Governments, we should come to their rescue. We should feel that responsibility. After all, I am fully confident that we have elected civilised Governments. Blaming each other, when the cyclone victims are groaning and crying desperately for help, is not in good taste. Playing politics over the dead and suffering ones is inhuman and uncivilised. It is time we forgot all our narrow partisan considerations. The paramount need of the hour is to wipe out the tears of the suffering people and not to indulge in petty politics. Let us not make political capital out of human sufferings. I strongly feel that the Centre should extend all possible help to Orissa and we must try to rebuild the lives of the people. One of my friends has made a suggestion that we, the MPs, should send even the whole amount that has been given to us under the MPLAD, to the Government of Orissa for its rebuilding activities. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, like all my colleagues in this august House, I also express my deep anguish and sorrow at the events that have occurred in Orissa because of the super cyclone. Sir, this country has stood by its tradition of helping the people in agony. I have recently been to Punjab. A cluster of villagers have collected a lot of food items, articles etc. and they are carrying and transporting them from Punjab to Orissa. To my surprise, their determination and commitment is so strong that that cluster of villagers is paying a fare of Rs.2,000/- per truck to transport their commodities from Punjab to Orissa. And they have not requested to any Government, neither the Central Government nor the State Government, for any help. This is a true social service which they are doing. I

am told that one Sant Man Singh Pahewa has gone there with 500 disciples and is arranging food for 15,000 persons daily.

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: वह लंगर कर रहा है।

श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया : जी लंगर कर रहा है।

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: लंगर कर रहा है और 400 ट्रक गेहूं और चावल भेजा है।

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: He is there. Now the people have stood as a team for the help of their Orissa brethren. I do want to make any allegation, counter allegation, complaint, hidden complaint or mild complaint. I only want to make two or three things which need to be done immediately. Sir, three days ago, a news-item came from England, America and Canada that the Punjabis living over *there...(Interruptions)....S\r,* I want to draw your attention to one thing.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): I am listening.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Okay, Sir. This is a serious matter. In Canada, England and America, the Punjabis have collected a large number of clothes, not used ones but new ones. But the Indian Embassies are not cooperating. They want to ship these clothes to India. The Indian Embassies should either provide containers or they should extend help in collecting these things.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): I will request the hon. Minister to pay particular attention to this. His grievance is that those who are NRIs in America wish to ship new clothes, but they are not able to get the help either from their Embassies or from our Ministries. So, I request you to kindly pay your attention to it.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Sir, what requires to be done immediately is this. I appreciate the commendable work done by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. This was also reported in the Punjab newspaper by the great son who had gone there. The rehabilitation work should be done immediately and schools should be started. Sir, I would suggest that the location of the school buildings and other Government buildings should be changed. Everything has been destroyed. We have to rebuild them, and rebuild them at a higher place. Everything got

innundated...*(Interruptions)*....all the Government buildings.

Thirdly, Sir, seed is required. Now, the requirement of seeds for the rabi crop should be arranged. Ganjam district of Orissa is known for vegetable production. It should be taken up immediately. The farmers and artisans should be sent back to their previous professions. Some new schemes must be chalked out to deploy the farmers and artisans there. One thing which needs our attention is that, some areas are totally deprived; no help has reached them. On the other hand, there are some areas where the NGOs', the PSUs', the Central Government's, and the State Government's help, is reaching. This duplicity of commodities reaching a particular region in large numbers should be checked. We should also learn a lesson from this devastation. In future, the Government must come out with such schemes that buildings which are of basic necessity, like hospitals and schools are built, and, along with them, some buildings specifically for shelter purpose, are also built, so that the people could face any natural calamity. With these words, Sir, I associate myself with the feelings expressed by the Members in the House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): Now, Mr. Khuntia. You have two minutes.

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA (Orissa): Sir, first of all, I must express my gratitude and thanks to all the Members who have participated in this debate relating to the Orissa super cyclone. I thank the Central Government, the State Government of Orissa, all the other State Governments of our country, the NGOs', especially, the army people, the national and international agencies, and all the other organisations and individuals who have helped the Orissa people. I want to mention only two points.

There was a discussion about declaring this as a national calamity. .Today, there is a dhama and a demonstration by the Indian National Trade Union Congress. About 10,000 people were sitting in Jantar Mantar, demanding that the Government should declare it as a national calamity. It is not done from any political point of view. But everybody is of the opinion that if it is declared as a national calamity, then the World Bank and all the other multinational and international agencies would come forward to give soft loans, that some loans which have been given earlier could be replaced, and that the international community and other international organisations' may also come forward to give help.

The second point is this. It has been stated by the Prime Minister and the Chairman, Task Force, that no such provision, neither in the famine code nor in the relief code, to declare it as a national calamity.

From the very beginning the P.M. said that it would be treated as a national calamity. In Orissa he said that it was being treated as a national calamity. But I don't see any reason why they are not declaring it as a national calamity. As one hon. Member has rightly said, if our Constitution , on the basis of which our country, administration, judiciary and parliamentary system is working, could be amended for 85 times, it can be done now also. If all of us feel that the Orissa super cyclone is really a national calamity, if all the parties including BJP and BJD, who are in Government, feel that this should be declared as a national calamity-whether it requires a Constitutional amendment or it requires to develop a structure or an ad hoc system-if both the Houses agree, the Government should also agree and declare it as a national calamity and take this issue seriously.

Another point which I want to make is that the Government has asked some public sector companies to take care of some blocks. Some State Governments also have adopted some districts. Paradip Phosphates has been affected seriously. Paradip district is the most affected area. There were 1,800 workers. Out of them, eleven were dead and some of them were injured. These 1,800 contract labourers' thatched hutments were completely washed off. After this incident, these workers had taken shelter in schools and medical camps. Of course, they have to leave the medical camps and schools because they are very much essential for the children. But without giving them a tarpaulin, without making any alternative arrangements, the management has instructed the workers to leave the school and medical camps. I think this is not right. I think the public sector managements, when they take care of some blocks and schools, should take care of the contract workers also. The point which I want to make here is this. Mr. George Fernandes, our hon. Minister, who was a trade union leader earlier, knows it. They are poor people. One-third of the population of each and every village is daily-rated workers, who are unorganised agricultural workers and contract labourers. It is these people who have been the victims of the cyclone and they are the persons who have mainly lost their houses. The irony of the fact is that 30 crores people of our country, who are agricultural workers and unorganised workers; have no legislation to protect their rights. Legislations like the Provident Fund Act, Gratuity Act, ESI Act, etc. do not cover them

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and give social protection. If these were applicable to them, the family members of the dead would have got some help. So, I request the Government, through you, Sir, that it should bring a comprehensive legislation to cover them and to provide them social security so that at the time of any natural calamity like floods or cyclone or any calamity that can take care of their social security themselves. The Building Construction Act of 1996 can also give protection to the construction workers or contract labourers. But that has also not been implemented. With these words, I thank all the organisations and the Government which have helped us in this time of crisis. I once again request the hon. Prime Minister and the Government to declare the super cyclone in Orissa as a national calamity. Thank you.

श्रीमती शबाना आज़मी (**नाम0निर्देशित**): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा कोई बोलने का इरादा नहीं था। मुझझे पहले यहां कई सदस्यों ने बहुत स्ट्राँगली बहुत सारे प्वाइंट्स उठाए हैं, उन सबसे अपने आप को जोड़ते हुए मैं सिर्फ इतना कहना चाहूंगी कि यह बहुत दुख की बात है कि हम उडीसा की इतनी बडी ट्रेजेडीको डिसकस कर रहे हैं और यहां हाऊस में इतने कम लोग हैं। हम अपने आप को लीडर्स कहते हैं

what is the kind of example we set for the rest of the country? If we cannot even be present in full strength in the House when such a tragedy is being discussed, how do we let the people of Orissa know that we shared their grief? I think it is time that all of us look into our hearts to answer this question. Hon. Sir, you have cautioned us against reiterating and repeating the points which the other Members have made. I beg to disagree with you. I think it is extremely essential that the demand be reiterated. We are speaking with one voice, cutting across party lines. So, the Government was forced to take in this demand that we are making. The Hon. Prime Minister has said that we are ^treating it like a national calamity. Unfortunately, in the present situation, this is not enough. The Government needs to declare it as a national calamity. Only then we actually can have the money that is required for the purpose. Only then the international agencies which came forward with so much unprecedented help in Turkey, can provide us the help that they can. The people of India should not believe that the Government is being guided by narrow political gains. The other point I wish to make, Sir, is that, we have no, rehabilitation policy. When we were crying against the repeal of ULCRA, we were saying again and again that it is an important legislation. Land is an extremely important resource in the hands of the Government to rehabilitate

people. But our voice was not listened to. In the wake of the Orissa cyclone, . hope the States will rethink on the repeal of ULCRA and realise that land is an important source in their hands and they must not surrender it to the people who are only going to make money out of it. Meanwhile, Sir, in the hour of crisis, whom the people of Orissa should turn to? The State? The State has already thrown up its hands. The Centre? The Centre is not doing enough. The people of Orissa are crying. कैफी आज़मी साहब का एक शेर है। जो मैं यहां सुनाना चाहती हूं:-

'मालो दौलत ही नहीं, लूत लिए सपने भी,
ऐसा रहज़न भी न था,जैसा यह रहबर निकला।

यह उम्मीद करते हुए कि हमारी रहबरी, रहज़नी में न बदले। मैं आप्का शुक्रिया अदा करती हूं कि आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया।

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): Thank you. I take your point about the absence of people. I am confident that you will set an example by remaining present throughout the response of the Hon'ble Minister.

श्री चुन्नी लाल चौधरी (**उत्तर प्रदेश**): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, उडीसा में आए इस शताब्दी के सबसे भीषण चक्रवात ने हजारों जानें लीं, वहीं देश के पिछड़े राज्यों के दर्द का पहलू भी उजागार हुआ। उडीस के सीमावर्ती समुद्रतटीय क्षेत्रों में चक्रवात ने जिस तरह से तबाही मचाई उसकी कल्पना से ही रौंगटे खड़े हो जाते हैं। गांव के गांव साफ हो गए और उडीसा की राजधानी भुवनेश्वर तक उसके निशान देखे जा सकते हैं। उडीसा की इस भयानक प्राकृतिक आपद से कुछ गंभीर प्रश्न भी उठते हैं। इस देश में कहीं सूखा पड़ता है, कहीं बाढ़ आती है, कहीं तूफान आता है, कहीं भूकम्प आता है, ऐसी स्थितियों से निपटने के लिए एक कार्य-योजना राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर बनाई जानी चाहिए। केन्द्र में अलग से एक आपदा मंत्रालय का गठन होना चाहिए, क्योंकि जब मुश्किल आती है तब हम खूब चिल्लाते हैं और जब मुश्किल टल जाती है तो भूल जाते हैं। उडीसा के चक्रवत से एक प्रश्न और उठता है। आन्ध्र प्रदेश, उडीसा, पश्चिमी बंगाल, गुजरात आदि समुद्रतटीय राज्यों में कमोबेश स्थिति एक-समान ही रहती है। ये राज्य बराबर प्राकृतिक आपदाओं का सामना करते रहते हैं। ऐसी आपदाओं से निपटने के लिए एक नीति बननी चाहिए। मेरा तो यह भी सुझाव है कि हर राज्य में प्राकृतिक आपदाएं आती रहती हैं इसलिए एक आपदा मंत्रालय राज्य पर भी बनाया जाना चाहिए और केन्द्र स्तर पर

एक स्वतंत्र मंत्रालय का गठन होना चाहिए। मेरा इसी के साथ कहना है कि उडीसा की जो राज्य सरकार है उसके बरे में तमाम शिकायतें है और जो लोग उडीसा गए हैं उन्होंने भी इस बात का अहसास किया है और इसी सदन में उसके बारे में कहा है । वहां राजनीति ओर सत्ता की सह और मात में ये राहत के काम ढीले पड़ते जा रहे हैं। हम राहत करोड़ों के रूप में भेज रहे हैं लेकिन उसकी मानिटरिंग नहीं हो रही हैं। केन्द्र सरकार भी सहायता भेज रही है, एन जीओज भी भेज रहे हैं तमाम राजनीतिक पार्टियां भेज रही हैं। हम यहां पार्लियामेंट के माननीय सदस्यगण भेज रहे हैं, कौन इसकी मानिटरिंग करेगा, कौन देखेगा कि यह धन उचित लोगों की राहत के लिए पहुंच रहा है या नहीं । हम सिर्फ देते हैं लेकिन ऐसे समय में कि राज्य सरकार राजनीतिक खेल में उलझ रही है। खुद ही एक दल की सरकार ऐसा कर रही है। तो जरूर निश्चितरूप से यदि सही मानिटरिंग नहीं की जायेगी तो वह पहुंचेगा नहीं। मेरा एक और सुझाव है कि प्रायोरिटी तय होनी चाहिए कि राहत कार्य में किनकी प्रायरिटी होनी चाहिए, खेल में, जंगलात में और मकान में। माननीय मंत्री जी यहां बैठे हुए हैं मैं उनसे अपना यह सुझाव दूंगा कि वे मानिटरिंग में प्रायोरिटी तय करके राहत के कामों को करें। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं।

SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL (Nominated) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, my hcait goes out to the people and the Government of Orissa. They are suffering the travail of the after-effects of the fury of the super cyclone that has occurred there. It is not the time to find faults with the people and the Government. My heart-again goes to the Chief Minister who is being, maligned. People are saying that he would be ousted. Instead of finding faults with others, we should learn a lesson from this tragedy. It is being said that we were not warned. The fact is, a warning was given but we did not take notice of it. Sir, I was in the United States last year staying with my daughter in Florida. It was warned that there would a tornado. Immediately, the schools were closed and people started storing water in their houses and also purchased candles. They prepared themselves for the tornado. There was a very important rally which was postponed. We should learn a lesson that whenever there is a warning of this kind in future, we would take notice of that and prepare ourselves.

Secondly, I am reminded of Tashkent which suffered from an earthquake. Immediately after the earthquake, the erstwhile Soviet Union took the responsibility of rehabilitating this town. That town was parcelled into various sectors and the State took charge of various sectors. Here I am told that some States have adopted some districts. I believe that the State of

Punjab, which has the experience of rehabilitation-they did a miracle in rehabilitating the people after partition- and also has the experience of ushering in a green revolution, knows how to organize agriculture. They should be commissioned to take charge of an important district of Orissa. The other States also should be asked to come to the rescue of the people. This would make for cohision. This would make for emotional integration which the country needs so badly.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR): I am confident that the hon. Minister will consider the suggestion of taking benefit of your experience in rehabilitation.

Now, we have one more speaker. Thereafter, there is a message from the Lok Sabha. Then, I would have the sense of the House whether we should continue after that. It is past five now. Now, I request Shri Gandhi Azad.

श्री गांधी आज़ाद (**उत्तर प्रदेश**): धन्यवाद महोदय, उडीसा में 29 और 30 अक्तूबर को जो अभूतपूर्व भयावह प्राकृतिक आपदा घटी उसके लिए मैं अपनी ओर से, अपनी पार्ती की ओर से ह्दय से संवेदना प्रक्ट करता हूं। महोदय, मैं स्वयं को यहां के सभी विद्वान साथियों के साथ संबद्व करते हुए चंद बातें कहना चाहता हूं। महोदय, यह उडीसा की आपदा हो या चाहे देश के किसी कोने में किसी प्रकार की प्राकृतिक आपदाएं आती हैं उसमें ज्यादातर शिकार गरीब लोगों को होना पड़ता है। जिनके पास रोटी, कपड़ा, मकान की व्यवस्था नहीं है, उ नको ही ज्यादातर सारी आपदाओं का शिकार होना पड़ता है। हम 21 वीं सदी में जा रहे हैं और वैज्ञानिक युग के हर क्षेत्र में विकास करने जा रहे हैं तो मैं मंत्री जी से आग्रह करना चाहूंगा कि इस देश के विकास में क्या गरीबी विनाश का कोई कार्यक्रम है? यदि हम इस देश से गरीबी का विनाश कर लें तो हर विनाशकारी आपदाओं को झेलने में समर्थ हो सकते हैं। महोदय, मौसम वैज्ञानिकों अगर और चुस्त-दुरुस्त किया जाता तो हो सकता है इस आपदा का पहले से संकेत मिल जाता । इससे कुछ बचा जा सकता था लेकिन मैं आग्रह करना चाहूंगा कि मौसम वैज्ञानिकों को भी और चुस्त और दुरुस्त बनाया जाए। साथ ही साथ मैं मांग करता हूं कि इसे राष्ट्रीय आपदा घोषित किया जाए। आपने मुझे समय दिया, इन्हीं शब्दों के शब्दों के साथ आपका धन्यवाद।

रक्षा मंत्री (**श्री जार्ज फर्नांडीज**): आज ही करा दीजिए।